



IRISH SUPPLEMENT TO THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST

FIFTH YEAR.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1901.

No. 59.

Review of the Month.

THE annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland was held on October 7. The President (Mr. G. D. Beggs) gave an interesting address, in which he complained of the difficulty the Society has in carrying out its statutory duties, owing to the bias of country magistrates. He thought that, if this condition of things exists much longer, it may be necessary for the Society to leave the carrying out of the Act with the Government. The net increase of registered persons during the year has been fifty-one. The financial statement showed that law-expenses were a much heavier item than usual.

MR. H. CONYNGHAM raised the question of dividing the Final examination into two parts, and of establishing day classes in chemistry at the Society's house. The new Council is to consider both these questions. Mr. Kelly proposed a simple way of dealing with the bogus-company question by adding a definite clause on the matter to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland). The proposal met with the unanimous support of the meeting. Many uncomplimentary things were said during the discussion anent the patent-medicine trade, and the practice of affixing a non-responsibility label to the packages seems to be a growing one in the Dublin district.

THE *Medical Press*, in a recent number, takes notice of remarks made by the President as to the sale of poisons by unqualified persons, but complains that he was "silent on the many deaths that the counter-prescriber has caused through his ignorance." With a section of the medical Press this appears to be considered one of the most pressing grievances of the profession, but it only arises from an exaggerated notion that counter-prescribing exists to a very large extent, and that it is in some way an illegal practice.

THERE is a movement on foot in Dublin to make a presentation to Mr. J. I. Bernard, the Secretary of the Reception Committee of the British Pharmaceutical Conference. Subscriptions were confined to members of the committee, and the appeal met with such an enthusiastic reception that the list was closed within a few days. Mr. Frank Gill, the Secretary of the Presentation Committee, is making the arrangements for the presentation, which will take place on Friday, November 8.

THE Chemists' and Druggists' Society of Ireland held their first sessional meeting on October 25. One of the subjects taken into consideration was the providing of classes for registered druggists at the Working Men's Institute and School of Science and Art, Belfast. The pharmaceutical classes have been taken over by the new Municipal Technical Institute, and a special department of chemistry and pharmacy formed. The advantages now offered to northern pharmaceutical students, both as regards efficient teaching and lowness of fees, are equal to those of any technical school in the kingdom. Mr. T. Harper, pharmaceutical chemist, is the teacher of the pharmacy classes.

MR. JOHN PARKER, druggist, Limerick, was on October 11 sued to recover 50*l.* for the loss of a horse, due, it was alleged, to negligence in selling as nitre some poisonous substance. Judge Adams characterised the action as "the most unfounded he ever heard of," as the animal was found to have died of bursting of the diaphragm. Professor Tichborne found minute traces of arsenic in the stomach of the horse, but the Judge remarked that in chemistry a "trace" was the "shadow of a shade." This case admirably illustrates the risks to which a chemist is exposed in the discharge of his duties.

AN illustrated article on "Vaccination," by Dr. W. H. Martindale, was given in the *C. & D.* on October 12, its appearance synchronising with the epidemic of vaccination in London.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Pharmaceutical Licence Examination—The following passed at the recent examination:—H. Harrison (A. Mayne, E. B. P. Staunton), J. J. Cole, J. D. Hamilton, R. H. Lowe, M. R. J. Hayes, A. T. Bennett. Eight candidates were rejected.

Registered Druggist Examination (at Dublin).—The following passed:—J. T. Devin, A. Warren, and M. B. Widdess. One candidate was rejected.

Registered Druggist Examination (at Belfast).—The following passed:—G. Black, G. Cheevers, Jane Cunningham, A. V. Johnstone, F. W. McCully. Three candidates were rejected.

Pharmaceutical Assistant Examination.—T. Johnston and I. J. Sheridan passed. One candidate was rejected.

Preliminary Examination.—The following have passed:—F. F. Stafford, Ethel S. McKinney, M. A. O'Callaghan, S. J. Hamilton, A. W. Young, J. Behan, W. Cromie. Seven candidates were rejected.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

THE Council met at their house, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, October 2. The President (Mr. George D. Beggs) presided, and the other members who attended were the Vice-President (Mr. Bernard), and Messrs. Grindley, Simpson, Kelly, Baxter, J.P. (Coleraine), Porter, Brown, and Professor Tichborne.

FOR BETTER ATTENDANCE.

Before the minutes of the last meeting were signed, the VICE-PRESIDENT apologised for his absence from the last meeting, which was owing to an accident. He was not surprised that the notice of motion, which he had given for the last meeting, was ruled out of order by the President, after he (Mr. Bernard) had looked into the law bearing on the subject. He wished to explain that his sole object in giving the notice was to obtain a larger attendance of members of the Council, and to prevent abortive meetings; and in his effort to do this he was joined by the President, and, he believed, all the other members of the Council. He thought the notice should appear in the minutes with the discussion.

The REGISTRAR said he did not mention the matter in the minutes, because he thought the notice should be treated as one that was dropped—not moved at all.

The VICE-PRESIDENT: It was mentioned in the reports of the meeting in the journals.

The minutes were then amended by the insertion of a reference to the fact of the Vice-President's notice of motion having been ruled out of order, and were signed.

THE LATE PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

The PRESIDENT said that since the last meeting of the Council President McKinley had been assassinated. The event was one of which, he thought, they should take cognisance, and he there moved the following resolution:—

That the Council at this their first meeting since the deeply lamented death of the late President McKinley, of the United States of America, desire to place on record their sincere sympathy with the Government and people of the United States, and their horror at the dastardly crime, which has caused profound sorrow not alone in the United States, but also throughout the whole British Empire.

The motion was unanimously passed, and it was ordered that a letter of condolence should be transmitted through the American Consul.

COUNCILLORS RESIGN.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received letters from Mr. J. W. Brittain and Mr. Johnston Montgomery resigning their positions on the Council. A letter had also been received from Mr. W. F. Wells regretting he was unable to re-consider his resignation.

The President said: I need not say that taking these three resignations together we deeply feel the loss of these gentlemen. All that we can do is to initiate the new blood and get them into harness as soon as possible.

MR. BINKS RESIGNS.

A letter from Mr. F. N. Binks, F.C.S., resigned his position of lecturer in theoretical chemistry, as he had accepted an appointment in the laboratory of Messrs. Brady & Martin, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by the PRESIDENT, the following resolution was passed:—

The Council regret very much their loss of the services of Mr. Binks, which have been most valuable to the Society, and to the students of the Elementary Chemistry School, as exemplified by the great success of his pupils. The Council wish Mr. Binks every success in his new appointment in England.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The REGISTRAR stated that second registered letters, addressed to the following members of the Society had been returned from the Post Office: Messrs. Edward Best, Charles William Brooks, Philip Flood, George Boylan Mackillip, and Robert J. Rouselle.

A letter was received from the Hon. Secretary of the British Pharmaceutical Conference Reception Committee thanking the President and Council for having granted the Committee the use of the Society's house for their meetings. The PRESIDENT said the Council had had great pleasure in doing so.

SCHOOL ENTRIES.

On the motion of the VICE-PRESIDENT, seconded by the PRESIDENT, it was resolved that entries from students for joining the School of Chemistry be received so that the student shall join on January 1, on April 1, and on October 1, in each year; this regulation to come into force on January 1, 1902.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENT.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, seconded by Mr. GRINDLEY, Mr. P. P. Lee, of Cavan, was elected a member; and on the motion of Mr. MOFFITT, seconded by Mr. TATE, Mr. Mawhinney, of Belfast, was elected a member.

Mr. Thomas A. Shegog, of St. Mary's Road, Dublin, was appointed lecturer on theoretical chemistry and physics for the term of one year.

Other business having been disposed of, the Council adjourned.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE annual general meeting of the Society was held at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Monday evening, October 7, at 8 o'clock, Mr. George D. Beggs (President) in the chair. He was accompanied by the Vice-President (Mr. Bernard), the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. Grindley), and by Messrs. Kelly, Batt, and W. Corrigan (members of Council). The minutes of the last general meeting were confirmed. The REGISTRAR (Mr. Ferrall) read letters of apology for inability to attend the meeting from Messrs. J. Turner and Dr. J. C. McWalter.

COUNCIL ELECTION.

The PRESIDENT announced that the following gentlemen had obtained the greatest number of votes, and were conse-



MR. J. SMITH (Rathgar),
Pharmaceutical Chemist (Ireland), Chemist
and Druggist (Great Britain).

quently declared elected members of Council:—Messrs. Patrick Kelly (83), John Smith (79), George H. Grindley (78), George Brown (72), Richard Blair (Cork) (69), Henry Vincent Golden (Birr) (63), and James Tate (58). Messrs. Blair, Golden, and Smith replace Messrs. Brittain, Montgomery, and Wells, resigned.

THE SOCIETY'S SILVER MEDAL.

Mr. John Robert Wilson, of Kingstown, was called into the Council-room, the PRESIDENT presented him with the Society's silver medal for his answering at the examinations, which was the best during the last year.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Mr. BEGGS then said: I regret that I have been unable to prepare an address on any subject of pharmaceutical interest to place before you, and shall content myself by giving you a *résumé* of the work done by the Council during the past year. Before doing so, there are some points, arising out of my report, on which I would like to say a few words. The first, and most important one—and the most vital to the interests of every qualified chemist and to the Society—is the enormous difficulty your Council has in obtaining convictions for breaches of the pharmacy and poison laws throughout the country districts, notwithstanding that the most conclusive evidence may be brought forward, in consequence of the bench being occupied by a magistracy who in most cases are in sympathy with the local traders.



MR. HENRY VINCENT GOLDON,
Pharmaceutical Chemist.

The enormous expenses entailed in law costs by your Council in the seemingly futile attempts to have the laws respected will more forcibly point this out to you than any words of mine; and this leads me up to the point, What course is open to the Society to see that the provisions of their Acts are properly carried out? We should not be called upon to spend our funds, trying to have the law respected. If Parliament thought it necessary to pass the Pharmacy Acts for the safety of the public, surely it is only reasonable that they should also give means to have their various provisions carried out. If this state of things continues to exist in the country, I think the proper course for us is to report each breach of the law to the Castle, and let them see that the provisions of their Acts are properly carried out. Just contrast the action of the authorities in our cases with any infringements of the different Acts which affect the revenue. We have had no fresh legislation, as I had hoped we would have had, for to my mind we want some more definite and stringent laws regulating the vested question of

COMPANY-PHARMACY,

and the forming of bogus companies by persons who will not, or could not, qualify, and others who never served one hour at the business, with, perhaps, a share capital of a few pounds each. I do not complain if pharmacy companies be formed, each member of which is qualified, and if each branch shop is managed by a qualified man. This, to my mind, is perfectly legal and fair, but until we get company-pharmacy on these lines, we will always have an unscrupulous and dangerous competition. We are told that there is a dearth of young lads coming to the business. This I quite believe and understand, but what are the inducements held out to them. Only these: long hours, hard study and small remuneration; and when the young man rises to the position of having his own pharmacy, he finds that his study and labour have been almost in vain, for his neighbours—the grocer and huckster—enjoy almost all the rights and

privileges that he does, so far as his business is concerned. I hope that we will again approach Parliament, and try and get some further legislation, so that pharmacy and its rights may be properly protected and safeguarded. I am very pleased indeed that one of our members has seen fit to bring forward a notice of motion bearing on this matter.

THE LATE RESIGNATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL.

I regret very much that your Council have lost the services of some of its oldest members through resignation; I allude to Messrs. Wells and Montgomery. Mr. Wells's connection with the Council goes back some eighteen or nineteen years. He always worked for the welfare of the Society, and I assure you your Council used every endeavour to induce him to reconsider his decision. In Mr. Montgomery, although not so long connected with the Council, we have lost a most valuable member. His services were always at the call of the Society, and although his attendances at the Council-meetings were not as frequent as we would have wished, nevertheless he did an amount of work that only those on our Committee could be aware of.

OUR COLONIES.

It will be gratifying to our licentiates and members to know that we have received a very satisfactory letter from the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain intimating that our diploma will have equal rights with those of the English Society in all the colonies, with the exception of New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania.

THE LATE COUNCIL ELECTION.

I wish to say a few words with reference to our elections. I think it is a great pity that the members of our Society do not take a greater interest in these elections. We frequently hear complaints that the Council does not look after the interests of its licentiates. This I challenge, but it is open to any member to nominate men of their choice to serve on Council; and I greatly wish that these nominations did not remain altogether in the hands of sitting members of Council.

THE BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

There is one other subject that I desire to say a few words about, although it has nothing to do with the work of the Society. It is with reference to the late visit of the British Pharmaceutical Conference; and although I was specially careful that the affairs of the Conference should in no way be mixed up with our Society, beyond my giving permission for the use of our rooms for meetings, still I must say that it ought to be a matter of congratulation, both to the Society as a pharmaceutical body, and to each individual chemist of Dublin and the South of Ireland, that they so fully maintained the traditions of Dublin for its generous hospitality, and giving our visitors a real hearty Irish welcome.

THE LAW PROCEEDINGS

during the year have been carried out, as I mentioned (with the exception of those in Dublin), with the enormous disadvantage of a magistracy in strong sympathy with the offenders, apparently regarding the Society's efforts to have the law vindicated as "persecution." As a consequence the law costs—as the Hon. Treasurer's statement will show—have by many times exceeded the fines recovered.

OUR EXAMINERS.

Your Council, owing to regulations appointing examiners, have lost the valuable services of Dr. Tweedy and Mr. Sparkbrook Brown, both of whom completed the full term of five years. Dr. Henry, LL.D., and Mr. David O'Sullivan, M.P.S.I., were elected in November last, and the Council are to be congratulated on having two such competent and painstaking men as examiners. In the Licence examination Mr. John Smith (now a member of Council) is succeeded by Mr. J. Guiler, M.P.S.I., for the botany and materia medica examination.

OUR SCHOOLS

have been conducted with the usual care and ability by Professor Tichborne and Mr. Kelly, Professor Ashe and Mr. J. M. Laird. In the practical chemistry class the number of students was sixteen in 1901, as against twenty-six last year;

and in the botany and materia medica class the numbers were thirty-nine in 1901, as against thirty-eight in the preceding year.

THE EXAMINATIONS

have as heretofore been held in accordance with the regulations, and 107 applications for registry were received during the year.

MEDAL.

I am pleased to say that the silver medal has been awarded to Mr. John Ronald Wilson, L.P.S.I., for high answering in the April examination. We had another gentleman also who had obtained marks over the limit of 230, but, unfortunately, the rule laid down only gave the medal to the greatest number of marks over the limit. The gold medal has still to be won.

OTHER PARTICULARS.

We have had an increase of our membership of sixteen over last year's, the number being 192 against 176. In the associate druggists' class the numbers are 37, as against 36 last year.

The net increase of persons registered is 51. Mr. Beggs thanked the Registrar for his help and assistance in compiling the foregoing statistics.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

Mr. BERNARD (Vice-President), in moving a vote of thanks to the President for his address, said the narrative of the bald, plain, unvarnished truth, was such that they could not feel delighted, but it should incite the members to further effort. (Hear, hear.) It was painful to contemplate that out of 1,460 licentiates and druggists in Ireland only a small percentage were members of the Society—something like 209. Outside the Council he had often heard criticism—mild in some cases and violent in others—on the action of the Council; but how could these people expect the Council to fight the battles when they were not supported by the army? (Hear, hear.) It was like sending the officers into the field to fight while the regiments remained behind. From what he knew of the members of the Council, and the work that they did, he could unhesitatingly say that the Council ought to be better supported. (Hear, hear.) They wanted licentiates of the Society to recognise that no good could be done for them unless they helped the Society; and he (Mr. Bernard) thought that for enunciating that fact, and for his conduct in the chair, the President deserved their very best thanks, and he seconded the motion that the same be accorded to Mr. Beggs. (Applause.)

Mr. D. O'SULLIVAN, in supporting the motion, said that the address of the President was a very practical one. One important point to which attention had been drawn, and which should not be lost sight of, was the repeated action of the authorities in reducing the fines on persons convicted of breaches of the Pharmacy Act. That was a matter that directly appealed to all licentiates and druggists as well, and they should be asked to interview their Parliamentary representatives in the various districts to see if something could not be done to stop the practice. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CONYNGHAM also spoke, after which

The vote of thanks was passed amid applause.

The PRESIDENT, in the course of his reply, said he trusted that the Society would increase in numbers and would prosper, and that they would have no cause to look back on the past. (Hear, hear.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. GRINDLEY (Hon. Treasurer) then read a summary of the income and expenditure of the Society for the year ended September 30, 1901, from which we extract the following:—

Income.—Balance in bank at close of last year, 50*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; fees from licences and examinations, 549*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*; subscriptions, 201*l.* 12*s.*; dividends on stocks, 25*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; fines and costs incurred, 41*l.*; rents, &c., received, 29*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*. Total, 897*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*

Expenditure.—Fees paid to examiners and for licences, 194*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; salary of Registrar for year, 120*l.*; THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, for journals, 46*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*; ground-rent, rates, and taxes, 37*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*; printing and stationery, 25*l.* 9*s.* 1*d.*; furniture and repairs, 114*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*; law costs, 175*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*; postage, wages, sundries, 94*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*; drugs for examiners, fire-insurance,

coal, gas, &c., 32*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.*; travelling expenses of country members of Council, 22*l.*; stamps on drafts, 8*s.* 4*d.*; balance now due by bank of Ireland, 34*l.* 3*s.*. Total, 897*l.* 5*s.* 7*d.*. This added to 982*l.* 15*s.* 7*d.* worth of new 2½ per cent. Government stock gave a total money capital of 1,016*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*

Mr. Grindley, in presenting the statement, said that the Preliminary fees received had increased from 159*l.* 12*s.* last year to 176*l.* 8*s.* this year; but the fees from registered druggists showed a large falling-off—92*l.* 8*s.*, as against 147*l.*. Membership subscriptions showed a slight increase—164*l.* 17*s.*, as against 160*l.* 13*s.*. It was a deplorable thing to have to state that they had paid in law-costs 175*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* (as against 70*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* in the previous year), and all they had recovered was 41*l.*

Mr. CONYNGHAM and Mr. KELLY commented on the heavy law-costs, the former remarking that the Act of Parliament should be allowed to remain a dead letter, or else the Government must undertake the work at their own expense.

OTHER ACCOUNTS.

Mr. FERRALL (Registrar) then submitted an account of the income and expenditure in the Pharmaceutical School of Chemistry for the past year, from which it appeared that 117*l.* 12*s.* had been received in fees, and the expenditure was 118*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*. The account for the School of Botany and Materia Medica showed that there was a balance from last account of 58*l.* 4*s.* 8*d.*, and 60*l.* 18*s.* had been received in fees; after deducting expenditure there was now a balance of 63*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*

Mr. CONYNGHAM put several questions of a friendly character to ensure that the Council was acting within its rights, the PRESIDENT assuring him on the point, the accounts were passed.

DIVISION OF THE EXAMINATION.

Mr. H. CONYNGHAM moved the following motion:—

That this meeting suggests to the Council the advisability of having a day class in the School of Chemistry, and also the advisability of having the Final examination divided into two parts.

He put the latter part of the motion first. Young men coming to the profession were, he said, so weighted and engrossed by the examination they had to face that whilst preparing for it they did not learn their business. The result was that after they got qualified they were unfit to take charge of a place of their own. He had three suggestions to make. The first was that the Assistants' examination should count as the first half of the Final examination; the second that the Final should be divided into two parts; and the third was that, if the Council should approve of neither of those plans, the student who was put back should be allowed credit when he presented himself again for the subject that he had passed in, and should only be examined in those in which he had failed. This would relieve the present strain on the time and mind of the student.

Mr. HENRY HUNT seconded the motion, and after some discussion it was referred to the new Council for consideration.

COMPANIES AND PATENTS.

Mr. KELLY moved the following resolution:—

That the following clause be added to the Pharmacy Act (Ireland) for the protection of the public and of duly qualified pharmaceutical chemists in Ireland: That no person or persons be permitted to keep open shop for the compounding or dispensing of physicians' or surgeons' prescriptions unless they be trained and educated, and have passed a qualifying examination according to Act of Parliament for so doing.

Some people said that what he proposed was the law already. He said "No." They had heard about the non-enforcement of the existing law by those in authority, and about the evasion of it by unprincipled capitalists. The grievance was a very sore one. He wanted no monopoly. Let patent medicines go to the dogs, but he did ask protection for the trained and qualified pharmacist.

The resolution was seconded by the President, and several members having spoken in favour of it, the resolution was put from the chair and passed unanimously.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the President.

[A longer report of this meeting is given in the *C. & D.*, October 12.—ED.]

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Close Quotations for Selected Drugs, Pure Chemicals,
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PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY of IRELAND.

EXAMINATIONS.

All Examinations are held during the months of January, April, July, and October—viz.:

The Preliminary Examinations on the **FIRST TUESDAYS.**

The Pharmaceutical License Examinations on the **SECOND WEDNESDAYS** and following days.

The Pharmaceutical Assistants Examinations on the **SECOND MONDAYS.**

The Registered Druggist Examinations on the **SECOND TUESDAYS.**

All Applications must be lodged with the Registrar, and fees paid, a clear fortnight before the dates of the respective Examinations.

PHARMACEUTICAL SCHOOLS OF CHEMISTRY, BOTANY, AND MATERIA MEDICA.

The Chemistry School is under the direction of Professor TICHBORNE, LL.D., F.I.C., L.R.C.S.I., and Diplomat in Public Health, assisted by Mr. P. KELLY, M.P.S.I., and Mr. F. N. BINKS, F.C.S., late "Young" Scholar of Anderson's College, Glasgow.

The Botany and Materia Medica School is under the direction of Mr. J. N. LAIRD, B.A., Large Gold Medallist and Sen. Mod. T.C.D., and Mr. J. S. ASHE, M.P.S.I., Medallist and Prizeman in Materia Medica, R.C.S.I., &c., &c.

The Fees for the Courses, in accordance with the Regulations of the Society, are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Theoretical Chemistry	1	1	0
Practical Chemistry (Deposit 3/6) ...	6	6	0
Botany and Materia Medica (combined)	2	2	0

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SUBSCRIBE TO THE C. & D.

We would remind those of our readers whose subscriptions expire about this time that they should promptly renew them, in order to ensure getting copies of THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY for 1902. We have just completed the press-work on the DIARY, and think we may say that in several respects it will be a more serviceable desk-book than ever. The price of the DIARY to non-subscribers is 3s. 6d. per copy, post free to any part of the world. A copy will be presented to everyone on our subscription-register, and as the 10s. subscription includes fifty-two weekly numbers of the C. & D. the investment is the most remunerative in the drug-trade. Not only is this a good time for renewing subscriptions, but the best time to begin.

Summary.

THE United States consumes ten million pounds of arsenic yearly (p. 747).

THE legality of the sale of poisons by auction is discussed by a correspondent (p. 738).

DATA for making formaldehyde solutions are given by Mr. Geo. Roe in the article on p. 726.

THERE is a movement for the introduction of the metric system into South Africa (p. 748).

THE discussion on cutting prices is growing in our correspondence columns, boycott being advocated (p. 737).

A KETTERING CHEMIST has been censured by a coroner's jury in regard to a sale of potassium cyanide (p. 716).

LETTERS in our Correspondence section show that the Liverpool conference of chemists was poorly attended (p. 738).

A PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP of the latest lot of Volunteer compounders to be sent to the front is reproduced on p. 748.

DR. MARTINDALE'S article on vaccination in the C. & D. of October 19 has been of assistance to a conscientious objector (p. 714).

XRAYSER, replying to Mr. Patrick Kelly, gives the legal reasons for the opinion that companies are entirely outside the Pharmacy Acts (p. 727).

WHO should pay the solicitor's charges for a three-years' house agreement? The question is to be settled by a metropolitan judge (p. 732).

MR. VICTOR HORSLEY is very angry with the Royal Colleges and the Privy Council for their treatment of the General Medical Council (p. 731).

OBSERVATIONS on the testing of reduced iron by Dr. A. Marquardt, epitomised on p. 747, corroborate generally Mr. E. S. Peck's conclusions.

THE detection of salicylic acid in strawberry jam does not necessarily mean the addition of a preservative, as there is methyl salicylate in the fruit (p. 747).

DR. LUFF regretted that a pharmaceutical curriculum is not compulsory. He appears to deplore that there is a curriculum for the medical diploma (p. 728).

THE names of the forty-six persons who obtained the Apothecaries' Assistants' certificate last month are given on p. 715. It is stated that over 120 were examined.

THE President and Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, and others, reply to Mr. English's criticism of the conduct of the recent election (p. 733).

MR. J. W. SUTHERLAND, of Glasgow, and Mr. Martin Meldrum, of Irvine, have been nominated, with six retiring members, for the election to the Pharmaceutical Board of Examiners for Scotland (p. 745).

BOOTS' AND PARKES' DRUG-STORES are the defendants in Sale of Food and Drugs Act cases respecting methylated soap liment. The Government chemists are getting a reserve sample to analyse (p. 733).

MR. BARRATT, the chairman of A. & F. Pears (Limited), reports a satisfactory year's business, and gave the shareholders some interesting particulars about an American imitation of the famous soap (p. 744).

DR. RICHARD ALLAN, of Dumbarton, is being prosecuted by the Pharmaceutical Society in regard to alleged illegality in the sale of Easton's syrup by an assistant (p. 734), who herself has been fined for the actual sale (p. 733).

THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION regulations were discussed at the Executive meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society in Edinburgh, when Mr. T. Maben appealed strongly for a reconsideration of the whole position (p. 745).

MR. W. S. GLYN-JONES, addressing the P. and P.L. Dispensers' Association, condemned the growing recognition of the Apothecaries' Assistants' certificate, claiming that the Pharmacy Act qualification should be more stringently upheld (p. 723).

THE principal changes in the drug and chemical markets are reductions in borax, boric acid, English refined camphor, sulphonal, and almond oil. Among the dearer articles are crude camphor, shellac, lycopodium, ginger, and cod-liver oil (p. 741).

By the help of Mr. Glyn-Jones, as the embodiment of the C.D.A., the Saxmundham magistrates have declared spt. æth. nit. to be a perishable article, so that a summons against a pharmacist was dismissed because the analyst did not mention the fact on his certificate (p. 733).

English News.

Local Newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

A General Order issued on October 22 from the Custom-house makes the duty on crystallised or *glacé* apricots 7s. per cwt., and mixed fruits in boxes will pay the highest rate of duty.

Thomas Maloney (43), described as a chemist's assistant, was remanded at Clerkenwell on October 25, charged with being a suspected person found loitering at St. Pancras railway-station.

The Chemical Industry Club will entertain at the Hotel Previtali, on Monday evening, Professor William Ramsay, F.R.S., Mr. R. C. Woodcock (Treasurer of the New York Section of the Society), and Mr. Watson Smith.

The fund which is being raised to found a memorial to the late Dr. D. J. Leech, Manchester, has reached the sum of 1,230l. The fund is shortly to be closed, and a meeting of subscribers called to consider the form of the memorial.

A youth named Chetwood (16) has been committed to the Shropshire Assizes on a charge of breaking into the house of Mr. J. J. Clayton, chemist and druggist, Ellesmere, and stealing 15l. in money and a gold watch. Chetwood was formerly in Mr. Clayton's employ.

In the High Court action, *Barker v. Sullivan* and others, now being heard by Mr. Justice Ridley and a special jury, Mr. W. F. Wyley, of Coventry, is one of the defendants, as a director of the Cycle-manufacturers' Tube Company (Limited). The action is in respect to the prospectus of the company.

The safe which was removed bodily from the shop of Boots (Limited), in Market Street, Longton, on September 19 (see *C. & D.*, September 28, page 524), has been discovered in a pool near Burslem. The bottom of the safe had been wrenched off, and the contents (as well as the burglars) are still missing.

The operations of J. H. Nicholson, the ear-drum man, have been put a stop to for a time. He came up for trial last week at the Old Bailey, and, having pleaded guilty to a charge of fraud, was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour. An interesting historical account of his dealings with the public appears in this week's *Truth*.

Mr. C. Estcourt, public analyst for the city of Manchester during the quarter ended September 30, examined thirty samples of drugs and fourteen of beer. Samples of sulphur included in the drugs, were all found to be arsenic-free. The beer samples all contained traces of arsenious acid, varying from an infinitesimal trace to $\frac{1}{10}$ gr. per gal.

On Friday, October 25, the Michael Faraday Home was opened at East Dulwich. This home is a ten-roomed house, presented to the Robert Browning Settlement by Miss Isabel Faraday, a cousin of the great investigator, and it is given so that nine poor people, preferably in Newington, which was Faraday's native parish, may end their days without entering the workhouse.

A firm of financial agents sued Mrs. Mary R. Litchfield last week at the Bloomsbury County Court for non-payment of an order made by the Court. In the course of examination it was stated that defendant, besides being the proprietress of several "dormant" fashion journals, was connected with a business for selling preparations in bottles and packets—"lotion, sulphide, and a specific for producing fat."

The Manufacturers' Section of the London Chamber of Commerce has recently issued a report by its Parliamentary Committee on the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, which comes into operation on January 1, 1902. This report is mainly devoted to a record of the successful results which attended the efforts of the committee in promoting amendments to the Amendment Bill of last Session. There was an excellent summary of the Act in the *Times* of October 26.

For Municipal Honours.

Mr. William Lund, chemist and druggist, York, has been re-elected unopposed a member of the City Council.

Mr. Rex Blanchford, chemist and druggist, is a candidate for municipal honours in the borough of Richmond.

Mr. J. E. H. Watson, chemist and druggist, Rose Corner, has been returned unopposed to the Norwich Town Council.

Mr. Charles W. Crassweller, chemist and druggist, has been returned without a contest to the Bury St. Edmunds Town Council.

The following gentlemen concerned in the chemical-trades are candidates at the municipal elections in Yorkshire cities and boroughs, some of them, as indicated, being elected without opposition:—Bradford, Tong Ward, J. B. Wilkinson, chemical-manufacturer; Harrogate, Bilton Ward, J. H. Wilson, pharmaceutical chemist; Leeds, Central Ward, E. A. Hirst, manufacturing chemist; Todmorden, Walsden Ward, J. Shackleton, chemist; Wakefield, South Westgate Ward, H. Cookson, chemical-manufacturer (elected); York, Guildhall Ward, W. Lund, chemist (elected).

Had Read the "C. & D."

At North London Police Court on October 26, an applicant to Mr. Fordham asked for a certificate of exemption under the Vaccination Act. Mr. Fordham said the applicant would have to satisfy him that he conscientiously believed that vaccination would be prejudicial to his child's health. The applicant said that was exactly his view. Mr. Fordham said the applicant would have to explain by what course of reasoning he had come to that conclusion. The Applicant: There are some people who are very particular as to the laws of hygiene and health, and who also think that vaccination is a risky proceeding. I myself have heard and read of very unsatisfactory results. I have read an article by Dr. Martindale, who, though not opposing vaccination, is not at all certain about it. Mr. Fordham: But you would not set up your opinion against Dr. Martindale? I should not like to do so. The Applicant: No, but he did not convince me. In fact, I think it a very great responsibility. Mr. Fordham: Why? The Applicant: A poor woman who was in my employ told me of her child, who died as a direct result of vaccination. I have studied the statistics of vaccination, which rather put me against it. Mr. Fordham: What is the percentage of deaths from vaccination—one in a thousand, one in five thousand? The applicant said he did not know. Mr. Fordham: You really have made up your mind that it would injure your child? The Applicant: Yes, I have. Mr. Fordham: Then it is my duty to grant you the certificate, though I am very sorry to have to do it.

Far-seeing Guardians.

The Salisbury Board of Guardians on October 25 discussed the offer of Mr. H. L. Farebrother, dentist, to examine and report gratuitously upon the state of the teeth of the children in the workhouse. It was stated that the majority of the House Committee were in favour of doing nothing in the matter, it being explained that Mr. Farebrother might not always continue to do the work for nothing, and once the practice was started the Board would have to pay a dentist at some future time. One member said that when an honorary dentist was appointed a charge was made for stopping or for new sets of teeth; and another member objected to workhouse inmates having gold stoppings and new sets of teeth, while ratepayers could have their teeth drop out. The Board decided to take no action in the matter.

Football.

Metropolitan College of Pharmacy *v.* War Office Sports Club.—This match was played on October 26 on the Metropolitan College ground at Shepherd's Bush, and though at one time the "Metros" seemed to have it all their own way, they fell off towards the end, and their visitors, whose forwards played a good combined game, scored three times to the "Metros" four, thus leaving the College the victory by the narrow margin of one goal.

London College of Pharmacy *v.* Old Londonians—On October 26 a very creditable draw was played between these clubs, the score being 2 goals all. The College led until

just on time. Conspicuous among the men who played in last year's victorious team, and who are still representing the College, are Maurice Jones (captain), W. Cole (vice-captain), and J. G. Middleton.

Fire.

The chemist's shop of Messrs. Needham & Co., situated at the corner of Ladypool Road and Highgate Road, Birmingham, was on October 24 the scene of a disastrous fire. Various causes are assigned as the reason for the outbreak, but, whatever the origin, the destruction was complete. The roof of the building—a large one of two storeys—fell in before the Birmingham fire-brigade arrived, and when a large tank of petroleum became ignited the flames blazed with furious brilliancy. Not a vestige of anything was saved; the shop, as it was tersely expressed, being "burnt clean out."

Apothecaries' Assistants' Examination.

At the October examinations of the Society of Apothecaries the following candidates were granted the certificate of qualification to act as an assistant to an apothecary in compounding and dispensing medicines: A. R. Akerigg, D. Annenheim, J. E. Arnott, C. Batterby, A. M. Baxter, J. W. Bayley, L. Bell, W. M. Brown, M. A. Campbell, W. M. Christian, A. C. Clare, D. M. G. Clark, L. Coventry, A. C. David, D. M. Deverell, A. G. Eveleigh, R. Fielding, E. M. Girling, B. M. Graves, M. Howard, M. E. Hutton, J. H. James, S. M. S. Jones, E. M. Kellett, C. M. Lawton, M. A. Lewis, L. M. Mann, G. A. Marshall, D. G. Miller, A. L. Mitchell, A. L. Morton, K. A. Nicholls, W. J. Peacock, P. Powell, J. E. Pullin, S. C. Renton, E. L. Reynolds, A. Skey, R. J. Thomas, A. E. Vigurs, H. Wale, W. L. Waters, M. H. Whalley, F. J. Wheeler, M. Whittome, W. M. Williams.

Settling-up.

The officials of the United Alkali Company (Limited) have been busy during the last few weeks investigating and settling the many claims for damage to property caused by the explosion of chlorate of potassium at Kurtz's Chemical-works in May, 1899. The Corporation of St. Helens have recovered 3,500*l.* for damage done to their gasworks. At a meeting of the Prescott Board of Guardians on October 24, the Clerk reported that the company had paid 21*l.* claimed as compensation for damage done to the relieving offices at St. Helens, and at a meeting of the St. Helens and District Property-owners' Association, the Secretary reported that about a dozen members have received their compensation for damage done to their property in various parts of the town. Other claims were under consideration. The general opinion is that the United Alkali Company have met the claims very fairly.

Birmingham Notes.

One of Messrs. Bellamy & Wakefield's new handsome plate-glass window-panes has come to grief, it is believed by reason of the frame not yielding to the expansive force of the glass. *V.s.s.*

Mr. Walter Johnson, chemist, Sterchley Street, has been appointed collector of accounts for the gas department of Birmingham during the month of November. Evidently chemists are in great demand for this kind of agency.

The following prescription was handed in to a suburban pharmacy last week and necessitated a journey to the wholesaler:—

R Kali platino-chloridi gr. viij.
Aquæ rosæ ad ʒvj.

M. Ft. mist.

ʒss. ter die.

What could it be used for? Should the result be a clear liquid?

The *Post* gives Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. a silent advertisement by telling its readers that "Dr. Jokichi Takamine, a Japanese, claims to have discovered the possibility of bloodless surgery through the medium of a chemical composition called adrenalin. By its application in solution operations may be performed on the nose, ear, and eye without spilling a drop of blood. It is the most powerful remedy known, and at the same time the most expensive, being 4*s.* a grain or 1,400*l.* a pound."

A new society of medical men is in progress of formation which has as its secretary Mr. Neal, of Small Heath. It will run a journal, and have for its object the repulsion of encroachments on "the profession."

Miss Williams, who has held the dispensership of the Provident Dispensary, Farm Street, Hockley, for several years, is about to be married. The post will shortly be vacant, and only ladies need apply to the secretary for particulars of the duties.

The Edison Bioscope Exhibition, with its searchlight advertisement carrying a beam of light fifteen miles, has a smack of pharmacy about it this week. The cod-liver oil industry of Newfoundland was displayed, and sweet music was discoursed by a military band, with the permission of Colonel Wyley (Coventry).

The proprietors of a certain hair-preparation have been in Birmingham offering 5*l.* silver watches to the chemist who purchased 10*l.* of the stuff. Then the game began; each to whom the offer was made called on his brother-chemist by way of distribution of excess stock and thus securing the prize, and did not state what was the reason, and each kept his own counsel; but whether anyone secured the watch has not leaked out.

Since the resignation of Dr. Irvine, the Birmingham Consultative Institute has been without a consultant, and at the present time there is a deadlock. The promoters will take steps to fill the appointment, but when has not been decided. Mr. A. Chamberlain complains in a letter to the local Press that Dr. Saundby is now, by advertising his name in connection with the General Hospital, doing what he prevents the Institute doing.

Messrs. Ayrton & Saunders's exhibition of druggists sundries, &c., at the Woolpack Hotel, Moor Street, Birmingham, has attracted many visitors this week. Assistants and apprentices, as well as buyers, are freely invited to inspect the show, which is kept open nightly until 11 o'clock, so that it can be seen after business-hours. It remains open until November 9.

Oxford Items.

Mayor George Claridge Druce has been re-elected unopposed a member of the City Council for the South Ward.

The Master of University (Mr. J. Franck Bright), who has served on the Council and Local Board for twenty-five years as representative of the University, has resigned. The Master has done much during his long term of office to advance the cause of technical education in the city.

The Mayor of Oxford (Mr. G. Claridge Druce, M.A.) gave sundry further examples of his versatility and wide range of knowledge last week in the course of his Mayoral duties. On October 21 he presided at the first of a course of six lectures on practical astronomy which are being delivered by Mr. H. H. Turner, D.Sc., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Astronomy, in connection with the University Extension movement. In the course of his speech when introducing the Professor, Mr. Druce sketched lightly the evolution of the science of astronomy from the discovery of Fraunhofer's lines in 1814 up to the star-photography of the present day.

A new crusade has been opened for "The Home of Lost Causes" in connection with the National Society for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-minded. Mayor Druce presided at the local branch held last week, and incidentally stated that he was one of those who opposed the spending of money in building large establishments for holding sufferers from tuberculosis or such diseases. Large sanatoria in open situations another generation might not think so desirable, and in that case the money spent in building would be wasted.

The Duchess of Marlborough presented the prizes to the successful students attending the Oxford City Technical School on October 23 in the Municipal Buildings. The Mayor presided, and members of the Corporation and the University attended in their civic and academic robes. Mr. Druce in his address began at the Stone Age and ended with the "Turbinia." While commending the advantages of technical education, he asked his audience not to forget that all the advances in mechanism and mechanical genius

which had led to such enormous developments during the past century, had been primarily due to uneducated workmen, and, to a great extent, uneducated masters, and therefore we must not be too scornful of those who were simply workers by hand and not by brain. They must see that England did not lag behind in the race for commercial supremacy, and if England but turned her attention to education there would be no fear for her future.

Charge against Company Directors.

Since our last report (see *C. & D.*, October 26, page 672) the number of prisoners charged at the Manchester Police Court with conspiring to defraud in connection with the Patent Novelties Manufacturing Company (Limited) has been increased to thirteen. The case came up again on October 29, when Mr. W. L. Hockin, who appeared for the prosecution, said the prisoners were charged with the issue of false prospectuses and false balance-sheets, showing extraordinary profits in the carrying on of a manufacturing business which they never were carrying on. They issued in 1897 a sheet showing profits of 4,498%, all of which were only in the clouds. He applied for a remand, to allow time for the examination of the documents and papers connected with the case. Probably the whole of them would not be obtainable; but the police had secured between twenty and twenty-five boxes of them. The frauds had been continuous since June 7, 1892. The matter was being investigated at the Treasury.

Committed.

At Wood Green Police Court on October 25, Alfred Joseph Heniffshhead was charged with appropriating 8*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*, the moneys of his employer, Walter Geo. Clark, of Messrs. Clark & Son, chemists, Edmonton. Prosecutor said he employed prisoner as manager of his Ponders End branch three years ago. All payments were first roughly recorded on a piece of paper kept on the counter. He had received sums of money from prisoner from time to time as the takings at the shop, but there had been no settlement. On October 20 he went to Ponders End between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening, accompanied by one of his sons, but found the shop closed. He entered by means of a latch-key. Prisoner did not return that evening, and witness left the shop as he found it. Next day he saw prisoner, who explained his absence on the previous day by stating that he had missed the last train from London. A few days afterwards prosecutor asked prisoner for the takings, and he replied that someone had been in the shop and taken them—either prosecutor or somebody else. Prisoner declined to produce his books when requested, but ultimately gave them up. Prosecutor compared the record with his books at the Edmonton shop, and, after having casted up in the presence of prisoner, pointed out that 8*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* was due from him. Prisoner said he had not the money, and told prosecutor to do as he liked in the matter. Defendant, who pleaded not guilty, was committed for trial.

Hawking Cough-lozenges.

At the Manchester City Police Court on October 30, before Messrs. H. Phillips and T. Parkinson, a well-dressed young man named Charles Henry Longmore, residing at 5 Tiverton Street, Ardwick, was charged with hawking without a licence. The evidence of the police and other witnesses showed that the prisoner had made calls at a number of houses and offered for sale boxes of cough-lozenges at 2*d.* a box. He had told householders that he was a representative of the firm of Boots, Cash Chemists; that the lozenges were for children, and that after the present week they would be sold at 6*d.* per box, the only difference being that there would then be twenty-five more lozenges in each box. One of the ladies who had secured a box said she believed the prisoner, and, knowing Boots' by reputation, believed she was getting a cheap line. The policeman who arrested the prisoner said he offered him half-a-sovereign to let him go. The officer made inquiries at Messrs. Boots' and found the prisoner's story to be false. Thos. Littlefair, manager of Messrs. Boots' Oldham Street branch, said he did not know the prisoner, and he did not represent their firm that he was aware of. He did not believe Boots' kept the class of goods the prisoner had been hawking. The lozenges (produced) were worth about 3*d.* per lb. The prisoner said he did not

know it was necessary to have a licence for selling anything to eat. He was fined 5*s.* and costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

Charges of Theft.

At the Clerkenwell Police Court on October 30, James Guest (30), a packer, of 37 Shirland Road, Paddington, was charged on remand with stealing on October 25, from 82 Clerkenwell Road, three bottles of medicated wine, and two tins of coffee, value 14*s.*, the property of James Herbert-Crispe, druggists' sundriesman. The prisoner had been in the prosecutor's employ for nine months. In addition to the property above mentioned Detective Selby found at the prisoner's address about forty articles that had evidently been stolen from the prosecutor's premises. Mr. D'Eyncourt sentenced the accused to six weeks' imprisonment.

At the Mansion House on October 25, before the Lord Mayor, Ernest Harrison (17), a messenger, and William Watson (17), a basket-maker, were charged with being concerned together in stealing and receiving two cans containing 41 lbs. of an essential oil of the value of 7*l.*, the property of Mr. R. C. Treatt, oil-merchant, Dnster House, Mincing Lane. Detective-constable Thompson stated that he watched the prisoners on Thursday evening. He saw them approach the prosecutor's warehouse by French Horn Court, Harrison opening the door with a key. Both went in together, and shortly afterwards Watson came out carrying a sack. Witness stopped him and asked what was in it. He replied, "I don't know; my mate sent me out with it." He was taken back and confronted with Harrison, who said, "It's a late order for Mr. Collings." There being no labels on the cans witness took both men into custody. Mr. Treatt stated that Harrison was an assistant in his warehouse. He was rightly in the possession of the key, but had no authority to visit the warehouse after the premises had been closed. The cans had not been ordered by Mr. Collings. A shortage was discovered at the stocktaking in September, but witness had not communicated with the police. The prisoners were remanded.

Carefulness in Bookkeeping

is evidently a rule in the establishment of Messrs. May, Roberts & Co., of Clerkenwell Road, E.C., because, by the precaution of one of their clerks in taking the numbers of crossed postal orders which he sent to Messrs. Marion James, Ker & Co. (Limited), wholesale chemists, of Durham Grove, Hackney, a supposed housebreaker was caught. The thief or thieves carried off, amongst other things, these crossed postal orders; but they were eventually paid in to the account of a local publican, and then traced to a man who was in the dock of the North London Police Court on Monday. The actual warehouse-breaking has not yet been proved against the man; but there is no doubt the commercial accuracy of Messrs. May, Roberts & Co. led the police up to this important stage—so the court-reporter writes to us. James Boundall, the man referred to, was remanded.

Signing the Poisons-book.

At Kettering on October 24, an inquest was held on the body of Mrs. Emma Heighton, who died from poisoning by cyanide of potassium. Mr. Edwin Thorp, pharmaceutical chemist, High Street, Kettering, said on October 22 the deceased asked him for some cyanide of potassium. Witness replied that he could not serve her, whereupon she said that her husband, who was away from home, required it for electroplating. Witness replied that her husband had better fetch it himself. Deceased returned later in the day, saying that her husband was out all day, but wanted to get on with the work that night, so witness sold her about an ounce of cyanide in a box labelled "Poison." On the following day the woman returned and asked for more cyanide of potassium. When asked if her husband had a proper place to put it in, she replied that he had, and that he also knew how to use the chemical. Mr. Thorp sold her another ounce also in a box with a "Poison" label. He produced his poison-book showing that Mrs. Heighton signed for the first quantity, but not for the second. Replying to the Coroner (Mr. J. T. Parker), he said he hardly considered it necessary for her to sign the second time. The Coroner: Do the regulations of the Pharmaceutical

Society say if you sign one day you need not sign the next? Witness: I think that is left to the discretion of the chemist. The Coroner: There is no discretion in the matter, and if you do not observe the law you run a risk, and I think the penalty is something heavy. Is this a deadly poison? Witness: It is. The Coroner: Then you ought to deal with this stuff more carefully. Mr. Heighton: I thought they could not sell a deadly poison to a person if they were not known. Mr. Thorp: I knew her by sight. Mr. Heighton: You don't know her, because she has never been out by herself for three years. What you have said is untrue, for there are very few who do know her, for she has been in very little company. Further questioned by the Coroner (who then had the poison-book before him), witness said he had put in the large bracket connecting the entry made on the occasion of the first purchase with the second subsequent to the purchase. The Coroner, in summing up, said Mr. Heighton had some ground for complaining of a certain amount of carelessness in the selling of a deadly poison. If the chemist had kept to his first intention not to sell the woman any poison he would have been all right and nothing would have happened. If he had stuck to the law that very likely would not have happened. The incident showed the necessity of people who sold poisons doing so according to law in all details. In this case he thought there had been carelessness on the part of the chemist. The jury, in returning a verdict of suicide while insane, added a rider to the effect that they considered the chemist, Edwin Thorp, had been guilty of great neglect in selling cyanide of potassium to the deceased. In their opinion, he did not know her either by sight or by name, and they thought his conduct under the circumstances deserving of censure. At the close the Coroner read the rider to Mr. Thorp and said, "I have nothing to add to what the jury have said."

"Dr." Head Discharged.

Absolom William Head (53), described as a medical assistant, was indicted at the Central Criminal Court on October 30 for the manslaughter of Michael Guiry. After hearing the evidence, the jury acquitted the prisoner, adding an expression of their opinion that no effort should be spared to make it impossible for unqualified medical men to jeopardise the health of the public by indiscriminate treatment. The Recorder pointed out that the prisoner might still be prosecuted, and probably would be, for acting as a medical man when he was not duly qualified. The prisoner was accordingly discharged.

The Week's Poisonings.

Since last week fifteen fatalities from poisoning are reported, three only of these being caused by the unscheduled poisons—ammonia, hydrochloric acid, and sulphonal. The sulphonal was supplied in cachets by Mr. Outhbert Pascall, of 64 Baker Street, W., to Lady Campbell, of Seymour Street, W. Amongst the scheduled poisons carbolic acid is an easy first with six victims, the other poisons employed being laudanum (taken by a Leicester woman), oxalic acid (used by a sailor at Pembroke Dock), cyanide of potassium (Kettering), morphine (self-injected by a retired surgeon at Worthing, who was also in the habit of inhaling chloroform), and bichloride of mercury. The last was taken by a post-office official who used the solution in photography. Attempts at suicide were made with oxalic acid, laudanum, chloroform, and salts of lemon. A 2-year-old boy in West London got hold of a bottle of opium-liniment and drank a quantity. He was promptly taken to the hospital and recovered.

"CASH CHEMIST."—*Truth* tells this week that a circular addressed to "Mr. Green, cash chemist, Bolton," was surcharged as "of the nature of a letter," and the addressee who had to pay for it was informed that this was because the address contained the words "cash chemist." "The words referred to," says our contemporary, "are part of the address, and it might just as well be said that a document ceases to be a circular within the meaning of the regulations because the addressee is described as 'Esquire.'" But how delicious it is to think that there is a little compensation in the dreadful title!

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Personal.

The Royal University of Ireland on October 25 conferred the degree of D.Sc., *honoris causa*, upon Professor Walter Noel Hartley.

The degree of M.A. was on October 23 conferred on Dr. J. C. McWalter by the Chancellor of the Royal University of Ireland, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava.

Messrs. G. Jameson Johnston and Ninian Falkiner, and Sir Charles Cameron have been elected to the Council of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Dr. Falkiner has been appointed President of the Section of State Medicine in the same Academy. All three gentlemen are "old boys" of pharmacy.

Accidental Poisoning.

On October 26 a woman named Mary Brennan, of 56 Great Brunswick Street, Dublin, died at St. Vincent's Hospital from the effects of swallowing a poisonous liniment by mistake for medicine.

Contracts.

At the meeting of the Meath Hospital and County Dublin Infirmary on October 28, the contract for the supply of surgical dressings, &c., was given to the Medical Supply Association, while Messrs. Boileau & Boyd got the contract for drugs.

The Local Government Board has cancelled the contract for medicines to the Rathdrum Union held by Mr. R. McKay, Newtown, Mount Kennedy. The Guardians have paid over the sum of 58*l.* to Mr. McKay as a set-off to their liability.

Royal Appointment.

Mr. John Evans, pharmaceutical chemist, apothecary, and surgeon, the Medical Hall, Dawson Street, Dublin, has been appointed chemist to the King. This medical hall is the second oldest in the kingdom, having been founded in 1684 (*C. & D.*, July 27, page 129).

Disputed Gas-account.

The Bangor (co. Down) Urban District Council, at Newtownards Quarter Sessions on October 24, sued Mr. W. Hanna, pharmaceutical chemist, Main Street, Bangor, for 5*l.* 2*s.* 1½*d.* for gas. Mr. Hanna has tendered 4*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* in settlement, the balance being deducted because a large number of jets of gas left burning at night were extinguished through defects at the works. The Town Clerk endeavoured to prove the quantity of gas by the meter-book, but the Judge ruled that that was not admissible; the gas-manager would have to be present. The case was therefore adjourned, the plaintiffs to pay costs of the day.

A Suspected Cake.

A mysterious poisoning-case is being investigated at Strabane. Two children, after eating a cake procured at a confectioner's, were taken ill and died. The inquest was adjourned to allow of an analysis of the contents of the stomachs.

For Northern Students.

The schools of science and technology, Working-men's Institute, Belfast, have been taken over by the Municipal Technical Institute. Classes in various subjects have been arranged at low fees, and a special department of chemistry and pharmacy organised. Mr. T. Harper, pharmaceutical chemist (Ireland) and chemist and druggist (Great Britain), is in charge of the pharmaceutical department. Full courses of instruction in evening classes begin on September 30 and January 6. The prospectus can be obtained from Mr. Harper, at the Working-men's Institute, Queen's Street, Belfast.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Business Change.

Mr. Thos. Hislop, late of the Glasgow Apothecaries Company, has opened a high-class pharmacy at 409 New City Road, Glasgow.

Personal.

Mr. D. Steven, chemist and druggist, formerly with Mr. J. McMillan, chemist, Glasgow, and at present with Messrs. Pinkerton, Gibson & Co., wholesale druggists, Edinburgh, has joined the representative staff of Messrs. Meggeson & Co. (Limited), London, whom he will represent in Scotland and the North of England.

Poisoning.

James McGowan, dairyman, Restalrig, died in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, on October 25, from the effects of poisoning. He had apparently drunk a "horse draught."

Edinburgh Pharmacy Golf Club.

The final competition for the Dick Medal was played over the Braids last week, the winner being Mr. A. C. Aitken, who also obtains the aggregate prize for winning the medal the greatest number of times during the year.

Nearly One Hundred Years Ago.

A contributor to the *Weekly Scotsman* states that in 1807 there were several lady chemists in Scotland. In the Edinburgh Postal Directory of that year three ladies are recorded as heads of houses connected with the drug-trade. They were:—Miss Davie, chemist, 29 Nicolson Street; Mrs. Henderson, Laboratory, 80 Nicolson Street; and Mrs. Carrigill, London Patent-medicine Warehouse, 86 South Bridge. In 1817 Mrs. Henderson had removed to 63 Nicolson Street.

Scientific Training.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh, the newly elected Chancellor of St. Andrews University, speaking at the University College, Dundee, on October 25, said that German chemistry had deprived Britain of the indigo-trade, that we had to go to other countries for our goods, and that, generally speaking, trade in this country is in a bad way. The Britisher relied upon old methods, while the German employed newer. It was the business of the University to help the manufacturers of this country to put an end to this. What they wanted in Dundee was a greater subdivision of subjects. They wanted a chair of geology and much more subdivision in the different branches of chemistry, and, first and foremost, a chair of the German language and literature.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

FIRE AT A DRUG-WAREHOUSE.—A very destructive fire took place last week in the drug-warehouse belonging to M. Bonnetty, rue de l'Abbayé, at Nice. The flames spread rapidly, being fed by the combustible nature of the stock and a large store of alcohol. A detachment of soldiers helped the firemen to get the flames under control by emptying several cartloads of sand on the flames.

COLOURED CANARIES.—A Paris canary-breeder, M. Bourez, claims to have found a method for producing red canary birds. This colour is obtained by giving the parent birds finely ground Cayenne pepper with their food. A gradual change in the colour of the feathers is the result. Thus far the red obtained has an orange tint, but with perseverance M. Bourez expects to produce brilliantly red canaries. [The pepper has been used in England for many years, and there are no red birds yet.—*Ed. C. & D.*]

AIR IN UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS.—A Paris chemist, M. Gréhaus, says the air in the underground railway here is perfectly healthy and fit to breathe. He is professor of

general physiology at the Museum of Natural History, and made the analysis by the request of the prefect, M. Lépine, who, ever solicitous for the welfare of Parisians, was much exercised by the frequent complaints of suffocation experienced by passengers. Over one hundred analyses, carried out in the course of a week, show that the air in the second-class compartments, even at the most crowded times of the day, never contains more than 1 per cent. of carbonic-acid gas, and is never more than 1 per cent. poorer in oxygen. Air taken in the stations did not reveal traces of carbonic-acid gas.

M. BERTHELOT'S JUBILEE.—The commemoration that is being prepared for next month of M. Berthelot's golden scientific anniversary has developed into what promises to be an imposing manifestation of an international character. All the great foreign scientific bodies have, as a matter of fact, expressed a desire to send representatives to Paris to render homage to the famous chemist and ex-statesman. Most of them have delegated members to form part of a committee of honour, of which the President is M. Darboux, permanent secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences. The French members are MM. Moissan, Troost, Ditte, Armand-Gantier, Haller, and others; while the thirty-one foreign names include Sir Henry Roscoe and Professor Ramsay.

ADVERTISING DENTIST.—Is the "cutter" invading dentistry as well as pharmacy? American dentistry, like English pharmacy, has always been associated in Paris with first-class work and fairly high prices. But some glaring orange-coloured posters have appeared lately advertising an "American" establishment of dentistry, where facilities of payment are accorded without increase of price and Dufayel's (sale on credit and hire system) tickets are accepted. The tempting announcement bears a telephone number, and should be quite irresistible to an individual whose temporarily empty pocket is aggravated by an aching molar. The poster is of respectable dimensions, and is all over Paris.

IS FRANCE DECADENT?—At the recent annual meeting of the five Academies which form the Institute of France, M. Hanotaux, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, read a paper on this question. He spoke of the energy and initiative shown by chemists in assisting the vine-growers in combating the phylloxera scourge that begun in 1878 to devastate France's greatest source of wealth. The fields were flooded, the vines covered with bouillon Bordeaux, and salvation was found when the moment seemed darkest. M. Hanotaux referred to colonial expansion as an evidence of France's vitality. In the domain of science he said this country is fully as brilliant at the beginning of the present century as she was a hundred years ago. She had lost no territory in it previously won, and had sustained no defeat. In fact, M. Hanotaux concluded that as a whole France had lost nothing of the authority and influence acquired during fifteen hundred years of a glorious and useful existence. The Comte de Franqueville read a paper on "The Scientific Balance-sheet of the Nineteenth Century."

FREE TRADE v. PROTECTION.—On Friday evening of last week the members of the British Chamber of Commerce in Paris engaged in an after-dinner debate on the subject of "Free Trade v. Protection," though, as a matter of fact, it was rather a discussion on the question of protection in France. A well-known French free-trader and former Cabinet Minister—M. Yves Guyot—opened the discussion with a review of the history of the existing French tariff. He remarked that all articles of necessity are taxed to such an extent that the average prices of forty-six typical articles of general consumption were found to be 17 per cent. dearer in Paris than in London. The protectionist had a very lame argument to the effect that the French tariff must be good, as, in spite of it, France is not ruined, but in the sugar-bounty question the tariff could be beheld in all its beauty. French sugar costs a fifth less in London than in Paris. The Parisian paid a heavy tax or *octroi* in addition to a high price, but Londoners paid no such tax. He concluded by referring to protection as a mischievous system that gave advantages to a few to the detriment of the majority. M. E. Thery, a prominent economist, took up the side of protection. He expressed admiration for England, and concluded that while free trade might be best for her, protection was most suitable for France.

East Indian News.

MR. W. COOPER, who has been manager to Messrs. A. Abid & Co., chemists, Hyderabad, Deccan, for the past three years, has resigned his position owing to ill-health. He sailed for home on October 19 per s.s. *Oriental*.

THE COCAINE-HABIT IN BENGAL.—In further reference to our paragraph of last week, we now learn that the Bengal Government has recently called for reports from the leading medical officers of Calcutta as to the best means of dealing with the growing habit of cocaine-eating. The replies received are stated to be unanimous that there should be no restriction upon the importation of the drug, but that nobody should be supplied with a quantity over $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. without a prescription from a qualified medical man.

INDIAN INDIGO CROP.—Messrs. J. Thomas & Co., Calcutta, in their report dated October 3, state that the probable output of this season's manufacture will be 94,000 maunds, against 111,670 maunds last year. Koonties at one time looked as if they would be disappointing, but owing to favourable weather the estimated total crop from Behar is now calculated at 56,600 maunds, or some 6,000 maunds less than in the previous season. Tirohot and Chuprah each show a falling-off of over 2,000 maunds. Rain is reported from some factories, but a heavy downpour is required to ensure moisture for the coming year. The Benares figures are given at about 9,000 maunds, but the North-West output is likely to be about half of last year, though, as usual, the estimates can only be taken as approximate as it is very difficult to obtain reliable reports.

Colonial and Foreign News.

A CANADIAN S.C.I.—On October 24 a meeting for the purpose of organising a Canadian branch of the Society of Chemical Industry of Great Britain was held at Toronto. There was a fair attendance. Good results are expected.

GERMAN CUSTOMS' TARIFF BILL.—A resolution has been passed by the German National Liberal party expressing the hope that the Federal Council will modify the Customs Tariff scheme in such a manner as to provide the necessary protection for agricultural produce, at the same time keeping the protection granted within such limits as to facilitate the conclusion of commercial treaties of long duration, which are so necessary for the development of Germany.

TO BE REVISED.—Herr Möller has ordered the Prussian Stores Tax Law to be revised, with the object of imparting to it a little more clearness. Its obscurity in many respects has proved a great obstacle to traders. The purpose of the law—to handicap the proprietors of stores by levying a special tax on and above a given turnover derived from trade in more than one class of goods—has, it is said, not been attained, as big capitalists still go on trading as usual, and get the tax out of the purveyor and the public conjointly.

CURE FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE.—At the opening meeting of the National Congress of Medicine held at Pisa on October 27, Dr. Baccelli, the Minister of Agriculture, described his method for treating foot and mouth disease. This consists of injections of perchloride of mercury. The dose that he gives to calves is 2 to 4 centigrammes (6 = 1 grain) with 75 milligrammes of sodium chloride for every 4 centigrammes of the sublimate employed. For cows and steers 4 to 6 centigrammes is the dose and for bulls 6 to 8 centigrammes. The method has been tried in various parts of Italy, and so far with complete success. In no case where the affected animal was treated with the perchloride injections has a fatal result supervened.

RUSSIAN PETROLEUM.—The depression prevailing in the Russian petroleum industry has induced many of the leading companies and firms in the Baku district to consider what steps should be taken with a view to improving the position of affairs. It is now announced that twenty-two concerns, including the Caspian Company and the Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company, have entered into a provisional

agreement for three months, whereby all the free stocks of the associated firms will be sold not by themselves directly but indirectly through a joint committee, which will act as a sales bureau. It is expected by this means to impart greater firmness to prices, although it is not easy to understand how this will be effected without any restriction in the output.

THE RECENT FAILURES IN GERMANY.—It is announced that the receiver of the bankrupt Treber-Trocknung Company at Cassel has reported that the non-privileged creditors of that concern, whose claims amounted in the aggregate to 177,000,000m., would receive a distribution of 1 per cent. Now comes the news that the receiver of the Leipziger Bank, which failed through the collapse of the Treber-Trocknung Company, has published a list of the bank's holdings arising from its connection with that bankrupt company. The inventory includes claims against nine non-bankrupt firms, dividends from thirteen liquidated undertakings, shares in eighteen undertakings, most of which are valueless, and, finally, outstanding debts transferred by the company to the amount of 22,400,000m., which are valued at nil. The Treber-Trocknung Company was known to the drug-trade as extensive producers of German acetic acid and wood alcohol.

Trade-Marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with C. N. Dalton, Esq., C.E., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost 11., obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," October 16, 1901.)

"VENZA"; for medicines. By the Venza Medicine Company, 45 Smeaton Street, North Ormesby, Middlesborough. 239,928.

"TOMCE"; for chemicals. By F. H. Bowden, 43 King William Street, E.C. 240,426.

Label device, and *facsimile* signature (the essential particular); for an ointment. By J. Barnard & Co., 74 Forest Lane, Stratford, E. 240,028.

"OMSJA" (the essential particular); for a cure for rheumatism. By H. Abbott, 1 Lower Mount Pleasant Avenue, Dublin. 240,495.

"CALOFILTER"; for goods in Class 6. By H. Hocking, 7 York Street, Liverpool. 240,456.

"POP"; for photographs and photographic paper. By R. & J. Beck (Limited), 68 Cornhill, E.C. 240,364.

"ZYMAX" (no claim for "Zyme"); for yeast food. By the Malto-peptone Company, High Street, Needham Market. 238,859.

"VOTALA"; for perfumery and toilet articles. By the Vinolia Company (Limited), Malden Crescent, N.W. 240,035.

"TALUM" (the essential particular); for perfumery and toilet articles. By J. S. Collins, 9 Tanfield, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh. 240,162.

"VELVOLINE"; for a skin-preparation. By A. Gibbs, Victoria Hall Chambers, Southsea. 240,521.

"RUBLET"; for furniture-cream, plate-powder, &c. By L. T. Ashwell, "Hazlewood," Warringham, Surrey. 239,798.

"GELLOIDS" (no claim for "Gello"); for gelatin capsules for containing medicine. By Hance Brothers & White, Philadelphia, U.S.A. 239,935.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," October 23, 1901.)

"INDANTHRENE"; for goods in Classes 1 and 4. By the Badische Anilin- und Soda-Fabrik, Ludwigshafen-on-Rhine. 240,931 and 240,932.

Device of two microscopic slides, one clear, the other with animalcule, and small label below, with "SALUTARIS WATER COMPANY"; for chemicals in Classes 1, 2, 3 and fermented liquors. By the Salutaris Water Company, 236 Fulham Road, S.W. 239,653, 239,654, 239,655, and 239,653.

"VIKOLA"; for chemicals. By F. H. Faulding & Co., King William Street, Adelaide, S.A. 239,489.

Our Town Traveller.

MY aim is still to search (with more or less eagle eye) for the Christmas novelty, and to that end I invaded various departments at:

10 & 12 ALDERSGATE STREET, E.C.,

the other day, where, as may be conjectured, both eagle eyes were regaled with many pleasing novelties. First of all, I inspected two sizes of the "travelling odorator." These pretty and ingenious little articles may be filled with perfume and sprayed, when required, by means of a pump inserted in the top. I notice some very beautiful tooth-brush, tooth-powder, and toilet-powder boxes, made to imitate old ivory, artistically carved, are the latest departure in xylonite-work. The tooth-powder box (for use in travelling) is cork lined, and the powder is contained in a glass tray. The stock of perfume-sprays in variety and number seem ever on the increase, and I despair of attempting to describe them. The newest "Maw" tooth-brush has an extra long handle and the brush is shorter and "squatter" than usual. This can be used not only for the teeth but also for the gums and the palate. Some of this year's puff-boxes are very pretty. A series made of Scotch fir-wood in terra-cotta, green, or other shades has a band of picture-faces round the box and a dainty face on top. These are the usual shilling or eighteenpenny-line, but distinctive. Some of the bag-puffs are very pretty, and lovers of the garish will not pass lightly a gold-plated puff-box of the urn pattern. In the perfume-department Mr. Jones showed me a large variation of caskets in which the imitation Wedgwood pattern predominated. A 4-oz. cutglass stoppered bottle, put up in a gelatin case, will sell readily at half a guinea, with a considerable margin of profit to the retailer. A series of cases containing 1, 2, or 3 bottles (to sell at 3s. 6d., 5s., and 7s. 6d. respectively) is tasteful, elegant, and cheap. The cases are in greenish shades with classical female figures on the lid, and gilt clasps adorn the front. A similar series of Violette de Parme is, of course, in violet-coloured cases. The "Patriotic" case with two flags crossed (Union Jack and King) adorning the lid is likely to be popular during Coronation year. The retail price is 2s. 6d. I must not omit another "Maw" preparation which is tastefully got up and inexpensive. It is "White-rose Brillantine," put up in a cutglass stoppered bottle with a white leatherette label.

The Christmas show of perfumery and toilet articles in the City showrooms of Messrs. R. Hovenden & Sons (Limited) at

85 TO 95 CITY ROAD, E.C.,

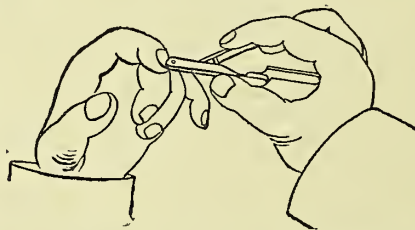
illustrates the growth in recent years of the perfumed artificial flower for decorative purposes. The fern-baskets, floral-sprays, bouquets, and buttonholes (all excellent imitations of the real article and effectively perfumed) are to be seen in multitudinous variety, so much so that perfumery strictly so called appears to take a secondary place. Not only geraniums, roses, chrysanthemums, and other well-known garden-flowers have their counterparts there, but artificial palms and evergreens are successfully reproduced. Christmas baskets containing perfumes seem to be a never-failing yearly source of revenue to retailers at the festive season, and this year they depart from the orthodox strictly square basket and assume unorthodox shapes. These baskets may be had at prices from 2s. 6d. upwards. Boxed perfumes, to sell at 6d. and 1s. (single bottles), are good value, and a shilling box containing three bottles is also to be obtained. The better-class perfumes, in cut-glass bottles, are to be seen there at prices ranging from 2s. 6d. to one guinea per bottle; and boxed soaps, at 6d. and 1s. per box. Butter-milk soap, each cake triple-milled and nicely wrapped (three in a box, to sell at 1s.), is a smart line. Passing onwards I investigated the perfections of manicure sets, from 1s. to 5s. per box. Soap-stands (for the bath-room), in two sizes, have separate receptacles for a sponge, soap, tooth-brush, nail-brush, and hair-brush. Thermometers in boxwood and rosewood, to retail at 6d. and 1s., were shown me, which looked large, and were clearly marked. Cards of sixpenny leather-covered nail-scissors are found a paying attraction

by many London chemists. The inspection of a large assortment of hair, tooth, shaving, and nail brushes completed my itinerary.

Of Christmas novelties Messrs. Barclay & Sons (Limited), have a good display at the showrooms in

95 FARRINGDON STREET, E.C.

Mr. Greig has his usual large and assorted stock of perfumery ready for Christmas business (which, by the way, he says is brisk, and likely to continue so), and the range of perfume-sprays, on which he prides himself, does not diminish either in lack of interest or variety. The article, however, which more nearly engages his attention, and to which he recently called mine, is "Klip-Klip," the pocket manicure, an illustration of which is given herewith. This unique toilet-article combines many of the features of a manicure set. It can be used for either hand by anybody, and can be folded to fit the waistcoat-pocket. The illustration



shows the principle on which the machine works. It is primarily a nail-trimmer, but besides cleans the nails, and files them when in a rough condition. It is made of silver steel, nickel plated, and retails at 1s. A new variety of flesh-brush, which takes the form either of a hand-glove or of a strap, was shown me, which by friction is calculated to produce the requisite warmth for this cold weather. The brush, or strap, is made of fibre, and these, though strong, are soft and do not scratch. Various novelties in puff-boxes and things of that sort engaged my attention afterwards, and I noticed besides a nickel-plated antiseptic spitting-bottle for invalid-travellers, which looks handsome and ensures asepsis.

Yet another of our well-known provincial drug-firms has found it advisable to have a foothold in the metropolis. The latest importation

COMES FROM COVENTRY,

and Messrs. E. W. Jones and J. W. Johnston, representing Messrs. Wyleys (Limited), have pitched their tent at 38 Wilson Street, Finsbury Square, E.C. I looked in there the other day, but found that alterations and "moving" arrangements were not quite completed. The formal day of opening is November 1, and in a week or two samples and stocks of all Messrs. Wyleys' goods, including specimens of packed specialities, may be inspected there. Doubtless a firm that has borne the brunt of the battle in the provincial drug-trade for over 150 years will not flinch before the competitive stress of Modern Babylon.

It can scarcely be affirmed that the

PRESERVATION OF THE DEAD

is an enlivening, or even an agreeable, subject. But to many the matter is one of considerable interest, and certainly the apparatus for that purpose which Messrs. T. Christy & Co., of 4 Old Swan Lane, E.C., is showing at the Examination Hall of the Royal Medical College on Victoria Embankment this week is creating a considerable stir in medical and scientific circles. A body is being shown in an excellent state of preservation, that condition being effected by means of an airtight chamber divided into two parts—the disinfecting-chamber in which the body is placed, and the evaporating-chamber, in which formic aldehyde is volatilised. An electric fan, driven by a motor, circulates the vapour from the air-chamber to the other. The vapour of formic aldehyde, it is contended, can penetrate the skin and permeate the tissues, exerting a complete antiseptic action within four weeks. Not only that, but it is claimed that the tissues are rendered permanently incapable of putrefaction, and though sterilised they retain much

of their suppleness, and to some extent their colour. An ice-closet placed beneath the open-wire shelf on which the body rests is used to restrain the action of the intestinal bacteria until the vapour begins to produce a distinct effect. The temperature of the chamber is kept below 50° F. for the first two days. The evaporating-chamber contains a series of vertical open cotton sheets, each about 2 feet square, on which the formic aldehyde is dropped. The size of the sheets are meant to afford a broad surface for evaporation. A copper screen shuts off the evaporating-chamber from the other when it is desired to remove the body without allowing the vapour to escape. Experiments show that cultures of several kinds of bacilli are killed in six hours when placed in the disinfecting-chamber, and that from guinea-pigs poisoned with atropine, arsenic, morphine, and strychnine, after treatment for eight hours, the active substances may be recovered from the viscera. Human bodies require from two to four weeks for sterilisation, but zoological specimens need only one or two days. Such an apparatus will be found most useful in medical schools, in the investigation of criminal cases—such as deaths by violence and by poisoning, in embalming, and on board ship when burial at sea is objected to, and when exposing bodies to public inspection. The cost of the apparatus is from 80*l.* to 100*l.*, and each body disinfected requires about $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. crude formic aldehyde.

Personalities.

MR. T. A. BURGESS, chemist, Aberavon, has been installed as Worshipful Master of the Afan Lodge of Freemasons.

MR. J. S. PRIOR, chemist, Stamford, has been elected to the Committee of Management of the Stamford Tradesmen's Association.

MR. A. SWABY BARNES, chemist and druggist, is lecturing to-night (Thursday) to the Dudley Institute Literary Society on "Something about Gases."

MR. CHARLES F. BAKER, senior partner of Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet & Co., Calcutta, and Mrs. Baker are returning home by this week's P. & O. boat.

BROTHER HARRY R. SMITH, chemist and druggist, Dursley, has been installed Worshipful Master of the St John's Lodge of Freemasons, No. 761.

MR. WILLIAM WYATT, pharmaceutical chemist, Lancaster, has been appointed assistant-demonstrator in chemistry at the Municipal Technical School and Storey Institute, Lancaster.

PROFESSOR H. L. CALLENDAR, M.A., F.R.S., Quain Professor of Physics in University College, London, has been appointed to succeed Professor A. W. Rücker as professor of physics in the Royal College of Science. Professor Callendar was at one time on the staff of McGill College, Montreal.

MR. J. A. RENTOUL, K.C., has, with the approval of the King, been appointed a Judge of the City of London Court. Mr. Rentoul is a co. Donegal man, and received his education at Queen's College, Galway, and the Universities of Berlin and Brussels. He is a B.A. and LL.D., and was called to the English Bar in 1884. He has been Conservative member for East Down since 1890.

MR. DUNCAN R. CHISHOLM, late of the Australian Drug Company, leaves London next week on his return with Mrs. Chisholm for Sydney, N.S.W. During his sojourn at home Mr. Chisholm has arranged to represent in Australia and New Zealand Messrs. John Richardson & Co. of Leicester (Limited); Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan & Co., Edinburgh; and Elliott & Co., dental manufacturers, Edinburgh.

A QUACK SURGEON, whose advertisements are a scandal to the Press, observes in a paper of Monday that he will not even open a letter which does not contain a one-pound note. —*Times*, October 26, 1801.

ROYAL WARRANT.—Messrs. Day, Son & Hewitt, 22 Dorset Street, W., who held Royal warrants of appointment since 1863 as purveyors of animal-medicines to the late Queen Victoria and to the King as the Prince of Wales, have received a similar appointment to his Majesty the King.

Business Changes.

MESSRS. LEWIS & BURROWS (LIMITED) are opening a branch at 555 Battersea Park Road, S.W.

MR. W. BOWDEN, chemist, Hill Road, Wimbledon, has opened a branch at the Broadway, Wimbledon.

DAY'S DRUG COMPANY (LIMITED) have removed from Liverpool Street, E.C., to 150 Bishopsgate Street, E.C.

MR. W. IVE has taken over the business of Messrs. Jones & Bowles, chemists, at 221 High Street, Kensington, W.

MESSRS. PRICHARD & CONSTANCE, chemists, 65 Charing Cross, are removing their business to 64 Haymarket, S.W.

MR. T. R. PRIME, chemist and druggist, has removed from 88 Westow Hill to new premises at Crystal Palace Parade, Norwood, S.E.

MR. J. WILSON, pharmaceutical chemist, Chiswick Park W., has purchased Mr. G. Curtis's business at 441 High Road Chiswick, W.

MR. E. VINSON, chemist and druggist, of Middle Row and High Street, Maidstone, has lately made extensive alterations and improvements in his business premises.

MESSRS. B. C. POND & SON, homœopathic chemists, have closed their business at Clapham Pavement, S.W., and transferred it to their principal establishment, 102 Brixton Hill, S.W.

MESSRS. WILLOWS, FRANCIS, BUTLER & THOMPSON, Aldersgate Street, F.C., are taking over the business of Messrs. Mackey, Mackey & Co., Bermondsey, as from November 1.

MR. W. R. WILKINS, chemist and druggist, having retired, the business carried on by him for many years at 3 Denbigh Street, Llanrwst, has been acquired by Mr. A. P. Roberts, of Eirianta, Llanrwst.

MR. LEWIS HENRY, chemist, some time ago transferred his business in North End, Croydon, to his branch in the Arcade, High Street, Croydon. He has now closed the Arcade business, and returned to the shop in North End, Croydon.

Deaths.

BARCLAY.—Mr. William Orr Barclay, senior partner in the firm of Barclay & Co., wholesale druggists, New York, died at New York on October 17. Mr. Barclay was one of the founders of this business, which he established over thirty years ago at 44 Stone Street.

CUNNINGHAM.—At 76 Polwarth Gardens, Edinburgh, on October 24, Mr. William R. Cunningham. In his 45th year. Mr. Cunningham entered the service of Messrs. T. & H. Smith & Co. when he was 12 years of age and travelled for the firm as their representative in Scotland for over twenty years. His health began to fail about four or five years ago, and he then gave up travelling and was sent to Glasgow, where he opened a branch of the business. Two years ago he returned to Edinburgh to take up the managership of the wholesale department. Mr. Cunningham was much esteemed by his employers for his possession of all those qualities which make a successful business man. He was well known throughout Scotland, and greatly liked for his geniality and sociability.

MCADAM.—Suddenly, at Craigadam, Pollokshields, on October 28, Christina Milne, wife of Mr Robert McAdam, managing partner, Glasgow Apothecaries Company.

THE ART OF DISPENSING (new edition).—The fresh material added consists of the latest ideas and methods in dispensing, and the preparation of medicines. The fullest information is given respecting the dispensing of pills, powders, mixtures, emulsions, &c., and also the preparation of more recently introduced articles, such as tablets, pastilles, pastes, jujubes, &c. The new remedies, especially those synthetically produced, are fully described. The work is in every way an excellent exposition of the art of dispensing.—*British Medical Journal*.

Winter Session.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

A MEETING of the Association was held on October 24 at 73 Newing Street, Oxford Street, W. A few preliminary questions having been disposed of over coffee, the members adjourned to the meeting-room to hear a paper by Mr. W. Garsed on—

COCA AND ITS ALKALOIDS.

The following is an abstract of the paper, which occupied over two hours in delivery. The subject was divided into three parts—(1) a short historical *résumé* of the discovery of coca; (2) discovery of the alkaloids of coca; and (3) an account of the work done in getting at the constitution of the alkaloids. Extracts were given from the works of travellers, which show that from time immemorial natives of Peru and Bolivia have used coca as a stimulant and for appeasing hunger and thirst. The coca leaves are always represented as having been chewed mixed with lime or with the ashes of other plants. Coming down to modern times, mention was made of the account published by Dr. Weddell in 1853 of the uses and abuses of coca and of the rather extravagant praise bestowed on the drug by Dr. Mantegazza in 1860, who, as the result of experiments on himself, declared that he would prefer ten years of life with the coca plant to a million years without it. Curiously enough, other writers, such as Dowdeswell, found that the drug had no effect whatever on the system, this probably being explained by the fact since discovered that some species of coca contain no alkaloid. The balance of evidence pointed, however, to the fact that the drug possesses extraordinary properties. Mr. Garsed then read an account of the cultivation of coca from Mr. Martindale's monograph on coca, and passed on to the discovery of the alkaloids of coca. Niemann, assistant to Wöhler, is generally credited with the isolation of cocaine in 1860, but Gardeke in 1855 isolated an active principle which at first he thought to be caffeine, but, not being able to reconcile it with the tests for caffeine, he named it erythroxyline. It was Niemann who first noticed the anæsthetic action of cocaine. Lossen, in 1862, investigated cocaine, and found that when heated with hydrochloric acid it splits into benzoic acid, methyl alcohol, and ecgonine. In 1887 Hesse discovered in amorphous cocaine cocaine and cocaineine, the former probably being the alkaloid which Liebermann called truxilline or isotropyl-cocaine. The controversy between Hesse and Liebermann as to the various alkaloids was touched on by the lecturer, who then referred to the discovery in 1888 by Liebermann and Giesel that the various alkaloids of coca all yielded ecgonine on hydrolysis. This led to a process of making cocaine by first splitting up the bases into ecgonine and converting the ecgonine into cocaine by treatment with benzoyl chloride. Some of Hesse's work requires confirmation; but Mr. Garsed said the following four alkaloids are established as contained in coca—(1) cinnamyl-cocaine, (2) tropacocaine, (3) cocainidine (discovered by Schaefer in 1899), and (4) cocaine. The constitution of the alkaloids was then shown, the work of Einhorn in this connection being given in some detail. Ecgonine heated with sulphuric acid yields anhydro-ecgonine, and this on further decomposition yields tropidine, homologous to that obtained from atropine. The fact was further established that cocaine is the methyl ester of benzoyl-ecgonine. The transition of the alkaloid and its relationship in some respects to atropine were shown by charts and blackboard diagrams, after which Mr. Garsed performed the Pharmacopœia tests—Maclagan's and the permanganate tests, on pure cocaine and on a sample of the mixed alkaloids. There was an excellent collection of coca alkaloids on the table, lent for the occasion by Messrs. Howards & Sons, of Stratford.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. E. W. Peck) and Mr. Coupland voiced the thoughts of the other members as to the value of the paper they had heard read, and Mr. Garsed replied to one or two points raised.

Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association.

ON October 25 the annual general meeting of the members of the Association was held at the Bull Hotel, Cambridge,

Mr. A. Sidney Campkin, J.P., presiding. There were also present Messrs. E. Saville Peck (Vice-President), C. S. Addison, W. L. White, P. Pain, H. J. Parsons, G. McAvoy, J. Evans, H. F. Cook (Hon. Treasurer), and B. Sidney Campkin (Hon. Secretary).

The Hon. Treasurer's report, showing receipts amounting to 5*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, and a deficit of 3*s.* 1*d.*, was adopted. The reserve fund amounts to 4*l.*

The HON. SECRETARY read his report, which referred to the early-closing movement as the crowning feature of a successful session. The report was adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The CHAIRMAN, prior to the election of officers, said the past year had been by no means an uneventful period in the history of the Association. They had not had as many meetings, and in some instances the meetings had not been as numerously attended as they might have been; but, at all events, they had shown that the Association existed, and to the pharmaceutical public that there was a considerable amount of vitality in the Association. The discussion on the draft Pharmacy Bill was a very useful one, and the sharply dividing line between them—he thought the majority was only one in favour of the Bill—showed that they agreed to differ and differed to agree. A pleasant function of the year was the presentation to the retiring President. The dinner was a success from every point of view, and he was sure the retiring President was greatly gratified by the reception he had, and by the expression of esteem that came to him, not only from the meeting, but from various friends in other parts of the country. The conference of Associations or District Federations, held at the Bull Hotel, was very successful; the discussion was very profitable and very useful. In conclusion, the Chairman said he wished to see the name of every chemist in business, and all those who were associated with the craft, on the books of the Association. If the Association only existed as a corresponding Society it would be of great benefit to them. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) Officers were then appointed as under:—President, Mr. A. Sidney Campkin; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. A. Deck and E. Saville Peck; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. F. Cook; Hon. Secretary, Mr. B. Sidney Campkin; committee, Messrs. White, McAvoy, Addison, Parsons, Pain, and Evans.

The HON. SECRETARY intimated that Professor Sims Woodhead has promised to give a lecture before the Association, and it was agreed that the proceeds should be in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society. It was also stated that a lecture would probably be given by Dr. Reynolds Green, and that a musical evening would take place during December.

Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

THE winter session is announced to open on November 12, when Mr. Barclay (the President) and Mrs. Barclay will give a reception to members and friends.

Liverpool Pharmaceutical Students' Society.

THE annual meeting of this Society was held at Sandon Terrace on October 24. The President (Mr. C. W. Cooke) occupied the chair. In opening the proceedings the PRESIDENT explained that the lack of interest displayed by the later generation of students in the meetings of the Society rendered it necessary for some action to be taken. Mr. A. S. BUCK proposed that in view of the small attendance at the meetings the Society be dissolved. This was seconded by Mr. HAROLD WYATT, jun., and on being put to the members present was carried unanimously. It was subsequently proposed by Mr. WYATT, jun., and seconded by Mr. T. S. WOKES, that the Council proceed with the liquidation of the Society and the disposal of its assets. After some discussion, in which all took part, this was agreed to. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the President for his services to the Society, and the meeting then closed.

Nottingham Chemists' Association.

THE session opened on Wednesday night, October 30, at the Albert Hotel, Derby Road, when a very successful smoking

concert was held. The attendance exceeded that of any previous year, some fifty members being present, and an enjoyable and encouraging time was spent. Mr. Richard Fitzhugh, J.P., the President, was chairman. Mr. E. W. Whitchurch opened with a pianoforte solo, and, following some observations by the PRESIDENT, in which he foreshadowed the work of the coming session, songs were agreeably rendered by Messrs. A. C. Vallance, Wollatt, Binson, and Thompson, while the humorous element was capably sustained by Messrs. Gregory and Daft. Mr. R. H. Beverley contributed a couple of recitations which were heartily received, and Mr. E. W. Whitchurch accompanied with taste and discrimination.

Leeds Chemists' Association.

THE annual meeting of this Association was held at the Church Institute on Tuesday, October 29, at 7.30 P.M., the President (Mr. E. Yewdall) in the chair. The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Pollett) presented

THE REPORT,

which referred to the advantages which the Association, with its library and museum, offered to students anxious to acquire the knowledge requisite for passing their examination. Reference was also made to the death of Mr. P. Jefferson, who was for many years connected with the Association, and assisted to maintain its utility by rendering aid as President and as an active member of the Council. The financial statement showed a balance in hand of £1. 19s. 7d.

The PRESIDENT moved the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which was seconded by Mr. GEO. WARD, and carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. GEO. WARD, seconded by Mr. PILKINGTON SEARJEANT, votes of thanks were accorded to the Pharmaceutical Society for the *Pharmaceutical Journal* and to the Executive Committee of the Pharmaceutical Conference for the "Year-book of Pharmacy," presented to the library. Thanks were accorded the retiring officers, and the following were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. F. W. Branson, F.I.C., F.C.S.; Vice-President, Mr. G. W. Worfolk, Ilkley; Hon. Secretary Mr. F. C. Long; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. D. Pollett; Committee, Messrs. F. Framley, G. Jackson, W. Johnson, T. J. Preston, G. Ward, F.I.C., and E. Yewdall; Hon. Auditor, Mr. I. H. Beacock. The members then adjourned to Messrs. Powlon's Rooms, Bond Street, where a highly successful and well-attended

SOCIAL GATHERING

was held. Mr. E. YEWBALL occupied the chair, and after an excellent high tea he proposed the usual loyal toast. Mr. BRANSON proposed the Pharmaceutical Society, and was followed by Mr. LONG. Mr. GEO. WARD responded. Mr. POLLETT proposed "The Visitors," to which Mr. BROADHEAD, of Batley, responded in a humorous speech. Mr. RHODES, of Mirfield, also spoke briefly. Music was rendered at intervals by Messrs. Mundell, Taylor, Horton, and Long, and on the motion of Mr. HAMMOND a vote of thanks was accorded to these gentlemen, to which Mr. TAYLOR responded. Mr. E. O. BROWN, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, said that as a trade chemists should be more united. Mr. GEO. WARD seconded the vote of thanks, which Mr. YEWBALL briefly acknowledged, and this terminated a most enjoyable evening.

Exeter Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Royal Albert Memorial, Exeter, on Wednesday evening, October 30, the President (Mr. E. Lemmon) in the chair. The arrangements for Sunday duty were completed. It was decided to have a schedule printed for twelve months, stating at which establishment urgent cases could be attended to on a particular Sunday. The President, Mr. Milton, and Mr. Lake, were appointed a Committee to carry the resolutions into effect. Various questions affecting the local trade were discussed in Council.

Cardiff Pharmaceutical Association.

BY way of inaugurating the winter session of the above Association, the members held a very successful *conversazione*

at the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Wednesday evening, October 30. Some fifty members and friends attended. The first hour was devoted to the inspection of a unique collection of articles illustrative of eating and drinking in times past, but "without," as facetiously expressed on the programme, "drink or victuals." For this exhibition the Association were indebted to Mr. R. Drane, who, our representative learned, had been engaged for forty years in getting together the articles which were of the value of between 600£ or 700£. To each member was presented a pamphlet descriptive of the articles. Mr. Drane also distributed amongst them copies of a "Mediæval Monastic Menu, after the corruption of Mariners," and another menu for a "Fish day." In introducing the programme of the concert which followed, Mr. A. HAGON (the President) briefly alluded to the municipal elections, and urged members to interview candidates with the object of getting the claims of pharmacists more prominently recognised by the local authorities. The programme for the concert, which was prepared by Mr. A. J. BELLAMY, was then proceeded with. It included items by Mr. Furnivall, Mr. F. Luxton, Miss Anne Bell, Mr. Fred J. Dobbs, Madame Annie Davies, Mr. W. Shapland Dobbs, Mr. J. Williams (Barry), Miss E. G. Jones, Miss Metcalfe, and Madame Annie Davies. Refreshments were provided in the interval of the concert, the arrangements for which were entrusted to Mr. W. J. Sanders, the Hon. Secretary.

Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association.

THE first meeting of the session was held at St. Bride's Institute, Ludgate Circus, E.C., on October 30, the President (Mr. F. Noad Clark) in the chair. About thirty members were present, and the meeting first passed a resolution of sympathy with Mr. Spencer, one of their most active members, who is suffering from a chronic malady, and was too ill to be present.

The PRESIDENT intimated that the Council had appointed the following committee as a deputation to wait upon the Pharmaceutical Council to discuss the question of the qualification of dispensers in public institutions:—Messrs. Müller, Welford, Duff, and the President.

Mr. GLYN-JONES then delivered the inaugural address which dealt with the

LAWS RELATING TO DISPENSERS.

He began by quoting the Act of Henry VIII., giving permission to persons other than surgeons to administer certain outward medicines, and which was recently used as a defence by a herbalist who was prosecuted by the Society of Apothecaries for acting as an apothecary. This Act showed that the Parliament of that day had little respect for doctors, as the following quotation shows:—

Sithence the making of which said Act, the Company and Fellowship of Surgeons of London, minding only their own Lucre, and nothing the Profit or Ease of the Diseased or Patient, have sued, troubled, and vexed divers honest Persons, as well Men as Women, whom God hath endued with the Knowledge of the Nature, Kind, and Operation of certain Herbs, Roots, and Waters, and the using and ministering of them to such as been pained with customable Diseases, as Women's Breasts being sore, a Pin and the Web in the Eye, Uncomes of Hands, Burings, Scaldings, sore Mouths, the Stone, Strangury, Saucelmin, and Morpew, and such other like Diseases; and yet the said Persons have not taken anything for their Pains or Cunning, but have ministered the same to poor People only for Neighbourhood and God's Sake, and of Pity and Charity: And it is now well known that the Surgeons admitted will do no Cure to any Person but where they shall know to be rewarded with a greater Sum or Reward than the Cure extendeth unto; for in case they would minister their Cunning unto sore People unrewarded, there should not so many rot and perish to Death for Lack or Help of Surgery as daily do; but the greatest Part of Surgeons admitted heen much more to be blamed than those Persons that they troubled, for although the most Part of the Persons of the said Craft of Surgeons have small Cunning yet they will take great Sums of Money, and do little therefore, and by Reason thereof they do oftentimes impair and hurt their Patients, rather than do them good. In consideration whereof, and for the Ease, Comfort, Succour, Help, Relief, and Health of the King's poor Subjects, Inhabitants of this Realm, now pained or diseased, or that hereafter shall be pained or diseased: Be it ordained, established, and enacted, by Authority of this present Parliament, That at all Time from henceforth it shall be awfull to every Person being the King's subject, having Knowledge

and Experience of the Nature of Herbs, Roots, and Waters, or of the Operation of the same, by Speculation or Practice, within any Part of the Realm of *England*, or within any other the King's Dominions, to practice, use, and minister in and to any outward Sore, Uncome Wound, Apostemations, outward Swelling or Disease, any Herb or Berbs, Ointments, Baths, Pulfess, and Emplaisters, according to their Cunning, Experience, and Knowledge in any of the Diseases, Sores, and Maladies before said, and all other like to the same, or Drinks for the Stone, Strangury, or Agues, without Suit, Vexation, Trouble, Penalty, or Loss of their Goods; the aforesaid Statute in the foresaid Third Year of the King's most gracious Reign, or any other Act, Ordinance, or Statutes to the contrary heretofore made in anywise, notwithstanding.

Coming to the Apothecaries Act of 1815 he showed that an apothecary at that time was a legalised dispenser, and also a qualified medical practitioner, but engaged particularly in dispensing. That definition still, he supposed, held good, but What is meant by an apothecary? is nowadays a moot question. The clause dealing with assistants showed that the training an assistant had at that time to undergo included "a five-years' apprenticeship to an apothecary." At that time, therefore, he received a training in the dispensing and compounding of medicines under a capable master, who had himself learnt the art of dispensing. But they found a very different state of affairs with the apothecary's assistant of to-day, who had merely to have six months' tuition under another apothecary's assistant (who probably had only six months' tuition himself or herself) before being eligible for qualification. Under these circumstances a chemist and druggist or a pharmaceutical chemist is not qualified to train an apothecary's assistant, and it is as much an offence under the Act for a Major or a Minor man to act as a dispenser to an L.S.A. as for a coachman. After further contrasting the qualifications necessary for the pharmaceutical and the apothecary's qualification, much to the detriment of the latter, Mr. Glyn-Jones urged that there was no difficulty in making out a strong case for the repeal of the Apothecaries Act—at least as far as it applied to the assistants' section. He thought the Act should at least be seriously amended, and the same rule should apply to dispensers in public institutions as applied to medical men in Section 26 of the Medical Acts, which stated that "no one could hold a public appointment unless qualified under this Act." Mr. Glyn-Jones then reviewed the clauses of the Medical Acts bearing on prescribing and dispensing, incidentally pointing out that whatever position the prescribing chemist held under these Acts it was clear that it was best not to give credit, as he would not be able to recover for medicines supplied. He then proceeded to point out that although by the Pharmacy Acts the sale and dispensing of poisons only is restricted to the qualified chemist, his whole training under the charter has been to fit him for the compounding and dispensing of medicines. If it were only a question of selling he was quite sure the present examination requirements were much in advance of what was needed, and instead of pushing the education of the pharmacist to its extreme limit he thought they ought instead to retrieve some of the lost ground and secure to chemists and druggists the right to dispense medicines and physicians' prescriptions. This was a more important question than the company one. He held that it was only reasonable to ask that (in the case of medical men) wherever medicine was to be dispensed it should be done either by a qualified man, or by the medical man himself. And he had no hesitation in saying that the proper qualification for a dispenser was that of the Pharmaceutical Society, and not that of the Apothecaries' Society. He thought a discussion on this subject was bound to come sooner or later between the two Societies, and the sooner the better, and when the question was properly threshed out he imagined the G.M.C. would have no difficulty in settling upon the chemist and druggist as the most suitable man for dispenser. He deprecated the attempt of the Apothecaries' Society to endeavour to usurp what are the privilege and prerogative of the Pharmaceutical Society. He had heard it suggested that the Pharmaceutical Society should approach the Apothecaries' Society and endeavour to bring about some understanding on the question of dispenserships; but he would strongly object to the Pharmaceutical Society being a party to an endeavour to improve the status of a qualification such as that held by an assistant of the Apothecaries' Society. In his opinion the

latter body should not have the training of dispensers in its hands at all.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. DUFF having made a few appreciative observations Mr. GOODALL remarked that the question which troubled him was, What is a dispenser? He then read some correspondence which had appeared in the public Press between himself and one of the Guardians of the Shoreditch Union regarding a rise in his (Mr. Goodall's) salary. The Guardian objected to the proposed rise because a dispenser, he said, "was an unskilled man, who merely filled bottles—like a publican." Mr. WELFORD remarked that as the Pharmacy Act was distinctly stated to have for one of its objects the safety of the public, he could not understand why selling was an offence, while compounding and dispensing were not offences. He spoke strongly of the meagre remuneration offered to dispensers in the R.A.M.C. and in some public institutions. Mr. DUNSTAN thought it high time the Pharmaceutical Council came down from its high state of non-interference and used a little energy in combating the evils spoken of. Mr. DONNAN and Mr. SMITH also joined in the debate; and the PRESIDENT having summed up, Mr. GLYN-JONES replied. In the course of his remarks he said it would perhaps come to pass that the futility of passing an expensive and arduous examination would be recognised, and the drug-store would flourish in place of the pharmacy. With regard to the delay in dealing with the question of public dispensers and other burning grievances of which the Pharmaceutical Council was guilty, he thought the blame lay entirely in the ridiculous system which prevailed at Bloomsbury Square, whereby it was compulsory for either the President or the Vice-President of the Society to sit as chairman of every committee.

The question of amalgamation with the Chemists' Managers' and Assistants' Union was left over for discussion at a future date.

Commercial Notes.

Magnesia Salts in France.

The importation of carbonate of magnesia into France last year amounted to 161,700 kilos., against 198,551 kilos. in 1899 and 129,915 kilos. in 1898; and that of oxide of magnesia to 12,400 kilos. in 1900, against 23,568 kilos. in 1899, and 12,372 kilos. in 1898. The greater part of the carbonate of magnesia was supplied by Great Britain, 163,476 kilos. having been obtained from this country in 1899, and 124,000 kilos in 1900. Oxide of magnesia is chiefly obtained from Germany.

Californian Olive Oil.

The Californian olive growers are preparing to gather their crop, which is expected to be the largest yet known, as the trees are loaded with fruit, and much additional acreage has now come into bearing. According to the *New York Commercial* it is expected that the crop will approximate 80,000 tons of fruit. The ruling price paid to growers last year was \$30 per ton. This year the prices range from \$30 to \$40. Experts say there is ample land in California suitable for olive-growing to yield as much olive oil as Italy and Spain put together.

Siam Sticklac and Benzoin.

A British report on the trade of the consular district of Chiengmai (which comprises the whole of Northern Siam) states that the former brisk trade with Bangkok in gum benzoin, sticklac, and other forest products, many of which were brought on the shoulders of the Lao of Luang Prabang, in exchange for the cotton goods in the Chiengmai market, has now practically ceased to exist. A Chinese trader of Chiengmai, some five years ago, bought up 1,000 piculs of sticklac at the rate of 52½ (37. 10s.) per picul (133½ lbs.). The sticklac still lies in his godown, and the home prices remain so low that there seems little chance of disposing of his stock for some time to come. Benzoin, the Consul remarks, is a product from the high hills to the north-east of Luang Prabang, and now finds its way down to the Tonquin markets by way of the Red River, or to a smaller extent to Bangkok by way of Paklai on the Mekong River and Utaradit. The "Ton Khamjan," or gum-benjamin tree, is also found growing along the slopes of the hills around Chiengmai, but whether because in this latitude it is of puny growth and deficient in resin or because the art of extracting the resin is locally unknown, it has no commercial value in the eyes of local traders.

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. GEORGE CHURCH & Co., 149 Fenchurch Street, London, are making a special offer at present of Seychelles vanilla, new crop, at 12s. 9d. per lb.

MR. JOHANN MARIA FARINA, Gegenüber dem Jülich-Platz, Cologne (for whom Messrs. J. & R. McCracken, 33 Queen Street, E.C., are sole agents for the British Empire), has been appointed by Royal Warrant purveyor of Eau-de-Cologne to his Majesty the King.

ELASTIC-GUM GOODS.—Messrs. Mason Brothers & Chapman, 107 Whitecross Street, London, have issued a detailed price-list of the elastic-gum surgical instruments they manufacture. The articles listed include urethral catheters and bougies, stomach-tubes, rectum-bougies, specula, pipes for enema and vaginal appliances, and bathing-trusses.

ELECTRICAL NOVELTIES.—We have received from Messrs. F. Darton & Co., 142 St. John Street, E.C., a price-list of scientific novelties for Christmas trade. It contains many forms of electric motors, lamps, torches, and batteries, and a few styles in model steam-engines. A selection of these goods should divert a lot of Christmas-present money to the pharmacy that stocks them.

SMITH'S ADVERTISING-AGENCY, 100 Fleet Street, E.C., send us a copy of a booklet dealing particularly with provincial advertising. The census-returns are made to show that the United Kingdom outside London has some thirty-seven million customers waiting for advertisers. How to reach the customers is what the booklet tells, in twenty or thirty brightly-written pages.

POULTRY-SPICE.—Spratt's Patent (Limited), 24 and 25 Fenchurch Street, E.C., are putting on the market a new poultry-spice. It is intended for mixing with the soft food, with the object of assisting the laying-power of hens. The spice retails at 1d., 3d., and 6d. the packet, and is a light-brown, aromatic powder, with sufficient pungency to make it acceptable in cold and damp weather.

"TABLOID" QUININE COMPOUNDS.—For the winter trade Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. have ready two new compositions, which are designed to abort chills. One contains 1 gr. of quinine bisulphate and $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of camphor in each tiny disc, and the other quinine sulphate $\frac{1}{4}$ gr., green extract of belladonna $\frac{1}{4}$ gr., and camphor $\frac{1}{4}$ gr. For the purpose for which they are designed these compounds are therapeutically excellent, and in the "tabloid" form they are particularly elegant, the accuracy of dosage being guaranteed.

ESSENTIAL OILS.—Messrs. Roure-Bertrand Fils, of Grasse, have issued their Scientific and Industrial Bulletin for October. Included in this are papers on researches on the mechanism of esterification in plants by Messrs. Charabot and Hebert, and notes on the origin and production of some foreign essential oils including photographs of citronella fields in Ceylon and Penang, lemongrass at Penang, vetiver at Buteuzorg, besides other such matter. Part III is a review of recent publications on perfumes and essential oils, this being purely scientific.

THE GLOBE "GERFOOT" EMBROCATION-OIL, which has been introduced by the Globe Manufacturing Company (Limited), Duubar Street, Norwood, S.E., is a clear, brownish-coloured, homogeneous oil, of aromatic odour, and it is recommended for the treatment of muscular pains and chest-complaints. It retails at 2s. 9d., and the makers intend to maintain its face-value. The article is to be well advertised this winter, the company informs, and as the oil is in some respects unique, it will be interesting to watch its progress in public favour.

THE "VIBRONA" ART SERIES, published by Messrs. Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. (Limited), Holloway, N., this week receives two additions. The new pictures are reproductions of the portrait of Richard Cobden by Lewis Dickinson, and James Northcote's portrait of Dr. Edward Jenner. The portraits are both in the National Portrait Gallery. The picture of Jenner comes at an opportune moment, when in London, at any rate, so many people are worshipping at the Jennerian shrine. Jenner's portrait would on this account be a special attraction in the pharmacy.

MR. JOHANN MARIA FARINA, of No. 4 Jülich's Platz, Cologne, has been appointed by Royal Warrant purveyor of Eau de Cologne to his Majesty the King.

"THE DOMESTIC YEAR-BOOK FOR 1902," produced by Mr. John Davis, 24 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., is, if we may judge from the specimen received, quite up to previous years in attractiveness and usefulness. The *Year-book* contains 32 pages of illustrated letterpress on pink paper enclosed in a grey cover. Two and a half pages are given on the cover and in the text are provided for chemists' own advertisements (but more may be arranged for), and each copy contains a coupon ticket for accident insurance. Only one person in each town is supplied with the *Year-book*.

IN "BEEFEX," as they call their new beef-essence, Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney (Limited) have struck a line of business in a novel manner. "Beefex" is a transparent and pourable extract, which makes beef-tea of rich flavour, a teaspoonful sufficing to make for a healthy person an agreeable "stayer," and for invalids it has the advantage of closely resembling in taste that of fresh beef-tea. It is put up in 1-oz., 2-oz., 4-oz., 8-oz., and 16-oz. bottles, so distinctive in shape that chemists who wish to sell their own beef-preparations can handle this to advantage and good profit. An effective showcard is supplied by the makers.

ST. JACOBS OIL.—It will be observed from an announcement made in this week's issue that the prices of St. Jacobs oil and Vogeler's curative compound have been revised, the 2s. 6d. size costing 23s. 6d. per dozen, and the 1s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. size 10s. 9d. per dozen, subject to discount of 5 per cent. on 5l. lots and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on 100l. lots, carriage paid. Mr. William E. Geddes, managing-director of St. Jacobs Oil (Limited), left for Baltimore by the *Majestic* on October 23. Mr. Thomas H. Vernon, solicitor to the company, sailed by the *Umbria* on October 26, to co-operate with Mr. Geddes in the completion of the arrangements for taking over the property of the Charles A. Vogeler Company. Mr. Geddes will spend two or three months in the United States and Canada, making the company's business straight there. We understand that the allotment of shares in the company was made last week.

AERATED-WATER APPARATUS.—Messrs. Hayward-Tyler & Co. had an exhibition of aerated-water machinery at 90 and 92 Whitecross Street, E.C., last week. It was a good show, and there were several novelties, among them Dunbar's patent filling-apparatus for ball-stoppered bottles, of which the firm are sole makers. This is especially adapted for chemists and others who manufacture on a small scale. The apparatus is a simple and ingenious contrivance, and can be worked single-handed. It is provided with a flexible tube, which is connected to one of the outlets of the carbonating-cylinders. It has a nozzle to go into the bottle. Holding the apparatus with the left hand, the valve is pressed with the right, forcing the liquid down into the bottle, which action immediately secures the ball-stopper in position. This is done while the bottles are in the ordinary delivery boxes. The apparatus is claimed to fill (at 100 lbs. pressure) 120 dozen 10-oz. bottles per hour. Ferguson's patent syphon-filler was also shown, with which two syphons are filled alternately by one man.

LECITHINE prepared from eggs is one of the latest remedies for diseases of the nutritive and assimilative functions. In tuberculous patients it occasions increase of appetite and general improvement, and has been of distinct benefit in cases of neurasthenia. Les Établissements Poulenc Frères, 92 Rue Vieille du Temple, Paris, are supplying through their agent, Mr. Joseph Flach, 16 Water Lane, E.C., a specially pure lecithine prepared from eggs, and they give in our advertising-pages particulars of the somewhat stringent tests for purity the article stands. Lecithine, we gather from a treatise by Dr. E. Coulombe, has been subjected to a long series of physiological and therapeutical experiments, and is likely to be ordered by London physicians. It is advisable for pharmacists to be prepared to dispense lecithine, which may be ordered in pills, cachets, suppositories, or hypodermic solution. The latter is prepared by dissolving lecithine in olive-oil, but with the other forms of administering it no difficulty in dispensing is likely to be encountered. We may mention that the internal dose for adults is from 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ gr.

The Use of Formic Aldehyde.

By GEORGE ROE.

FORMALIN, or solution of formic aldehyde, has taken a firm hold on the medical profession, and is a useful addition to the list of drugs for the prevention and cure of diseases. Few antiseptics have so soon become popular, yet how often have physicians been disgusted with it on account of the intense pain it has caused patients through the lotions or otherwise having been made too strong, a fact due to an imperfect knowledge of this powerful solution. It may therefore be interesting to notice how it has been used, for what diseases, and in what strength.

The 40-per-cent. solution of formic aldehyde in water best defines the fluid under consideration, because there seems some difficulty in understanding what is intended by the term 40-per-cent. formalin. Water will not hold more of the gas, it is the highest point of saturation; there is therefore considerable difference in the strength of a lotion, say, of 2-per-cent. formalin and that of 2-per-cent. formic aldehyde; the latter would be more than double the strength of the former. Many mistakes have been made through not knowing the difference. One part of formalin added to 39 of water makes a 1-per-cent. solution of formic aldehyde; from this factor any desired strength can be calculated.

The following strengths, calculated as of 40-per-cent. formalin and not as formic aldehyde, have been found useful for the diseases stated below:—

	(Of 40-per-cent. formalin)
Diphtheria, as a spray	$\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 per cent.
Diphtheria, as a paint	1 in 500
Ophthalmic practice... ..	1 in 2,000
Ringworm (small patches) (applied for a few minutes every second day)	40 per cent.
Tissue hardening (according to thickness)	1 to 10 per cent.
Sterilising instruments	10 per cent.
Sterilising hands	$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
Gargles	$\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.
Vaginal douches	1 in 500
Pruritus vulvæ, spray with	4 per cent.

Formic aldehyde is capable of forming compounds. A good example is urotropin, made by the action of formic aldehyde on ammonia, and, on account of the former being liberated when it reaches the urinary tract, it has been highly recommended for diseases connected with the bladder.

Formalin has many uses as an antifermentive, antiputrefactive, bactericide, and general disinfectant; 1 in 50,000 will keep milk a considerable time. It is stated 1 in 50,000 kills anthrax bacilli, and 1 in 2,000 prevents the development of typhus bacilli, as well as *Staphylococcus pyogenes aureus*.

As a disinfectant it is well known. A convenient strength for general use is one tablespoonful to a quart of water; in this way it can be used wherever there is an unpleasant odour, or for washing articles of furniture, utensils, and infected linen.

Recent Wills.

CLOWER.—The will of Mr. John Clower, pharmaceutical chemist, 22 Bridge Street, Northampton, who died on April 16, has been proved at the Northampton District Probate Registry Office by his widow, Grace Howard Clower, sole executrix. The gross value of the estate is 715*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.*, and the net personalty 469*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

FURMSTON.—The will of Mr. Samuel Chambers Furmston, chemist and druggist, of Chantry House, Shanklin (formerly of High Wycombe), who died on August 19, has been proved by Anne Furmston, widow, and the Rev. Samuel Chambers Furmston, of Blackwell Vicarage, Alfreton, clerk, son of deceased. The net personalty of the estate is 2,436*l.* 18*s.* 10*d.*, and the gross value 3,476*l.* 4*s.* 7*d.*

In the High Court at Ramsey, I.O.M., last week, before Deemster Moore, Mary Jane Swales applied for probate of the will of Thomas Swales, her husband, who formerly carried on business as a chemist and druggist in Ramsey, and who died in that town on September 14 last. The personal estate was valued at under 400*l.* Eventually the petition was adjourned, in order that the petitioner might be sworn in England.

"C. & D." Nursery Rhymes.



"J. J."

John J., of Evans Sons,
Sells to chemists goods in tons
From the suite
(So complete)
Of buildings in Hanover Street.

John J., of Liverpool,
Slaking thirst with liquid cool.
Lime-juice vat
Filled with what
J. J. brings from Montserrat.

J. J., of Lanca-shire,
Sells you all that you require—
Aloe, hop,
Lollipop,
Drug, or sundry; fit a shop.

John J., with father, sons
(Brothers also), business runs.
Known its worth
From Moray Firth
E'en to ends of all the earth.

New Books.

Any book named in this list can be supplied post-free to any part of the world on receipt of the published price by the Publisher of "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Clarke, J. H. *Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica* Vol. I., A to H. 10×6. Pp. 951. 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* half-morocco; 3*l.* 3*s.* buckram (for the two volumes). (Homœopathic Publishing Company, Warwick Lane, E.C.)

First Aid to the Injured: Emergency Book. 8vo. 2*s.* 6*d.* net (St. John's Ambulance.)

Gibson, J. A. *Nordrach Treatment for Consumption in this Country.* 7×4 $\frac{3}{4}$. Pp. 180. 3*s.* 6*d.* net. (Low.)

Gorham, F. P. *A Laboratory Course in Bacteriology.* For the use of students. With 97 illus. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ×5 $\frac{1}{4}$. Pp. 192. 5*s.* net. (Saunders.)

Heath, C. *A Manual of Minor Surgery and Bandaging* 12th ed. 6 $\frac{3}{8}$ ×4 $\frac{3}{8}$. Pp. 442. 6*s.* 6*d.* (Churchill.)

Warren, H. *Banks and their Customers: a Practical Guide for all who keep Banking Accounts, from the Customers' Point of View.* 5th ed. 7×4 $\frac{1}{4}$. Pp. 77. 1*s.* (Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange.)

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

Heroic Language

after a pharmaceutical dinner is pretty sure to win a responsive cheer, while the man who cautions the young bloods against the risks of their fearlessness is sniffed at as an old fogey who only sees the lions in the path. The gentleman at Liverpool, for instance, who declared that no Pharmacy Bill was worthy of a moment's consideration if it did not shut up all companies' shops, no doubt made some people happy by that vigorous denunciation. A more subtle, but not much more hopeless, campaign is becoming a popular cry just now. Last week Mr. Squire at Sheffield and Mr. Lord Gifford at Dewsbury urged action against some company for the use of one of the titles protected by the Pharmacy Act. This seems reasonable; it is a legitimate grievance that unqualified people should be able to assume a title indicating qualification; but the gentlemen who urge such action should realise that it means fighting over again the very same question which the House of Lords decided in 1880. No, say some of my friends; the offence alleged then was keeping open shop for the sale of poisons. True, but in that case the highest courts came to the conclusion that it was not illegal for a company to do this, because the 15th Section of the Act did not apply to a company at all. It is that same section which applies to titles, so that the argument corresponds exactly in both cases.

Mr. Patrick Kelly, M.P.C.I.,

holds that if the Pharmacy Acts had used the word "persons" as well as "person," pharmaceutical trading by companies would have been prevented. Mr. Kelly has evidently not studied the reported cases as closely as he should have done. There is an Act of Parliament (13 & 14 Vict. c. 21) passed for the purpose of abbreviating the language of statutes, which provides that in all cases "words importing the masculine gender shall be taken to include females, the singular to include the plural, and the plural the singular, unless the contrary is expressly provided." This Interpretation Act applies to all statutes, to those governing civil, as well as to those concerned with criminal actions. There is another law (7 & 8 Geo. III. c. 28) which provides that whenever "a person" is alluded to in regard to any offence "punishable upon indictment or summary conviction . . . the statute shall be understood to include . . . bodies corporate as well as individuals." Consequently, while throughout the Pharmacy Act the term "person" covers persons, it only applies (in Great Britain) to bodies corporate in the 17th Section, which creates an offence punishable by summary conviction. The offence indicated in the 15th Section of the 1868 Act is one punishable by a penalty recoverable by civil process. If the Irish Act can be brought within the construction specified, which is a question for Irish lawyers, so much the better for Irish pharmacy.

Boycotting Unprofitable Proprietaries

as advocated by two correspondents in last week's *C. & D.* is a scheme which has always tempted men. There is no possibility of direct loss through adopting it, because the articles campaigned against are already profitless. But a chemist cannot afford, or fears he cannot afford, the risk of turning customers from his doors. Mr. Morgan James's idea of organising the whole trade, and boycotting all "vauriens," is practically hopeless because of its vastness. But something much minuter would perhaps accomplish the purpose about as well. Suppose the

chemists of Llanelly, for instance, would agree to boycott only one unprofitable article, while the chemists of another town devoted their self-denial to some other article, and so on, no great risk would be run by any individual, and impenitent proprietors would soon realise their danger. "Sold by all respectable grocers" would not be an attractive tailpiece to their advertisements in those localities. The P.A.T.A. or the Federation might organise this boycott, and when they got it at work in a hundred places, they could begin to talk to the beneficent discoverers of precious compounds, who, out of regard to the suffering inhabitants of those hundred localities, would at least reflect.

The Value of Botany

to pharmacists, and the desirability of retaining it in the Qualifying examination, are matters fairly open to discussion; and I am grateful for having had my attention directed to the appended quotation from the recently-published "Life of Sir James Paget" on this subject. In his youth Paget was an enthusiastic field botanist. In a later part of his life he wrote:—

As I look back, I am amused in thinking that of the mere knowledge gained in the study [of botany]—the knowledge of the appearance and names and botanical arrangement of plants—none had in my after life any measure of what is called practical utility. The knowledge was useless: the discipline of acquiring it was beyond all price.

Exactly, but there are fifty other studies of which as much may be said. Indeed, a page or two further on in the same book Sir James Paget himself tells how he acquired some little skill in sketching, and he says of this accomplishment:—

I may repeat nearly what I said of botany. Its immediate utility was too little, its indirect utility too great to be told.

Why not therefore add drawing to the syllabus?

A Testimonial to Botany

as a part of the pharmacist's curriculum turns up however quite unexpectedly, and it is only fair to quote it. In last week's *Law Times* the plea of a herbalist, who was recently prosecuted under the Apothecaries Act, is discussed. He claimed that under an Act of Henry VIII. which prohibited persons from practising medicine in the city of London or within a radius of seven miles, there was a saving clause in favour of persons "having knowledge and experience of the nature of herbes, rotes, and water, and of the operation of the same by speculation or practise." That Act is still on the statute-book; but the *Law Times* thinks it may be assumed to have been practically repealed by the Apothecaries Act. The *L. T.* writer argues that in the case of the Apothecaries Society v. Nottingham the counter-prescribing of a registered chemist and druggist was held to be illegal; and surely, he says, a chemist's knowledge of herbes, being guaranteed by the Pharmacy Act, must have been at least equal to that of the herbalist, which is not guaranteed in any way. I should have thought the proper view would have been that the exempting section was applicable to both; à fortiori to the chemist.

Mr. Ince,

I notice, in his article on dispensing pills, marks the u in pilule, short (ü). So does my Latin dictionary. Ought we therefore to pronounce it like the u in tub, and does anyone do so?

The Son of Sirach

declared that "The Lord hath created medicines out of the earth, and he that is wise will not abhor them"; the Hackney Coroner, at an inquest reported last week, said "the use of old-fashioned remedies was unwise and often dangerous"; Dr. Luff recently told us of the havoc the new medicines are causing in neurotic society; policemen are frequently prosecuting the Peculiar People for employing no remedies at all. What is the poor confused wayfaring man to do when he has a pain somewhere, in the face of such varying authorities?

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Editorial Comments.

Medical and Pharmaceutical.

WHEN Dr. A. P. Luff addressed the students of the School of Pharmacy at the beginning of October he mentioned that he intended in another place to point out the evil of prescribing ready-made physic. That occasion was at the St. Mary's Hospital Medical Society on October 16. The decadence in the art of prescribing is due in a great measure, according to Dr. Luff, to the altogether inadequate attention given to the teaching of the subject, and the scanty test applied by many examining bodies as to the possession of a knowledge of rational prescribing on the part of candidates presenting themselves for the Final examinations. Hospital physicians are in the habit of ordering medicines by title from the hospital Pharmacopœias—a practice which has nothing like the educational value to the student that a prescription dictated in full would have. Students trained

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in this way fall an easy prey to the manufacturers of ready-made medicines and compressed drugs. There is at present, Dr. Luff considers, an altogether unnecessary amount of time given to systematic courses of lectures, students having to leave practical diagnosis in the out-patient department to attend lectures in order to be signed up for their examinations. Dr. Luff told the students at the Square that a curriculum would reduce the high percentage of rejections at the Minor examination, but it appears that the exact opposite is needed in the medical profession. We quote passages from each of the doctor's utterances:—

FOR PHARMACY STUDENTS.

I regret that I am not able to place on record the adoption of a compulsory curriculum of study for the Minor examination; such a curriculum is, in my opinion, sorely needed, and I believe it would go far to reduce the very high percentage of rejections in that examination.

FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS.

I earnestly desire to see the abolition of certificates of attendance on most lectures and to witness the licensing bodies taking the bold and honourable stand of ascertaining for themselves whether students possess the requisite knowledge, and ceasing to require the guarantee that candidates have sat through a given number of what possibly may be but dreary and uninteresting discourses. In medical training and learning I am a staunch advocate of the principles of free trade.

As Dr. Luff is a chemist and druggist as well as a medical practitioner, and has also himself been a teacher of pharmacy students, we shall doubtless hear him quoted as an advocate for a compulsory curriculum for pharmaceutical students, which is our reason for so forcibly showing what he thinks of the present medical curriculum. It would be interesting to know how the doctor reconciles his statements. To counteract the decline in the art of prescribing and to discourage self-drugging, he advised the St. Mary's Hospital students to order drugs by their scientific names and in cachets or powders, rather than in compressed form. The practice of self-drugging, which is an increasing one according to Dr. Luff, is brought about by medical men indiscriminately ordering ready-made physic. May it not be that the long-suffering public are becoming better educated and are discarding nauseous herbal concoctions used from time immemorial for the more elegant preparations of modern pharmacy? The practice of self-drugging is older than the medical profession itself, and is bound to increase with the diffusion of general knowledge; but medical speakers appear not to give the slightest heed to that aspect of the matter.

“Hamburg Ipecac.”

THE paragraph under this heading which we printed a fortnight since appears to have caused some commotion and even indignation in Hamburg drug-produce circles. It may be remembered that we protested against analytical reports which return the whole of the alkaloids of Cartagena ipecacuanha as emetine. The firm who issued the price-list from which we then quoted a paragraph in which a root containing 2.95 per cent. of pure emetine was mentioned have since sent us the analyst's certificate showing that he had obtained 3.29 per cent. of crude emetine and 2.95 per cent. of pure emetine. This analysis was by a sworn chemist, and it shows that the firm were simply repeating his statement. They have since sent us the following explanation, which we willingly print:—

It is the custom to state percentage of emetine in ipecacuanha-root according to the method of Professor Keller, a first-rate authority regarding the specification of the contents of pharmaceutical drugs. It is he who has worked through many years, by

exact and accurate research, the specification of the value of drugs. The method in question depends upon extracting the alkaloids of the ipecac.-root by suitable means (chloroform and ether), which are weighed as crude emetine, after evaporating the solvent. Of course, in this emetine there is some stuff containing resin and other kinds of extractive from the ipecacuanha-root. In order to get the pure emetine this crude product is dissolved in alcohol, and then assayed by titration with decinormal hydrochloric acid, using alcoholic solution of hæmatoxylin as indicator. From the titration the percentage of pure emetine is calculated.

These methods of analysis have been published in several journals; for instance, in the *Chemiker Zeitung*, Repertory 1893; also in the same paper 1894, where the results of the analyses are also indicated, which vary from 2.108 per cent. to 3.00 per cent., according to the different samples. These statements have also been published in the *Schweizer Wochenschrift für Pharmacie*, 1893, and up to this date these methods for specifying have been acknowledged as exemplary. Thus in the last published reports in the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* of 1901, page 748, in the business report of the wholesale druggists Messrs. Caesar & Loretz, it is stated:—

“During this year's examinations the yields of alkaloids have been found to vary in Rio ipecacuanha, analysed by Keller's method, between 2.396 and 3.150 per cent., and by the method of the German Pharmacopœia IV. between 2.494 and 3.26 per cent.; in Cartagena, also, by Keller's method, between 1.43 and 3.30 per cent., and by the German Pharmacopœia IV. between 1.67 and 3.25 per cent.”

These examinations of ipecacuanha-root, Rio and Cartagena, were made from lots of better quality, and an accurate average sample has been drawn for every analysis. If these last publications respecting the specification of the contents of emetine showed such results, not agreeing with those in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, it would be of no importance, but nevertheless it is of some interest, in corroboration of the above statement, that the very famous expert in pharmacognosy, Professor Albert Wiegand, professor of botanics and pharmacognosy at the University of Marburg, already wrote in 1879 that the contents of emetine in ipecacuanha-root differ between 1 and 3.75 per cent. These explanations, we trust, disprove thoroughly the report of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and the author of the article in question ought only to occupy himself with the literature on this subject up to the present time, in order to agree with our explanations.

Another Hamburg correspondent also writes a long letter from which we extract the following paragraphs, as giving the gist of the German position:—

It has been the custom in this trade—and not only in Germany, but also in the United Kingdom and the United States—to return the whole of the alkaloids contained in ipecacuanha-root as “emetine.” If perhaps one of your English chemists is of different opinion, you can scarcely cite him as a reference for the whole trade; and if you are not sure upon the subject yourself, you should not publish false statements. If you will please look up the respective literature, you will no doubt find my report confirmed; and, besides, I beg to refer you to the U.S. American Customs Tariff Bill, in which it is precisely stated that ipecacuanha-root must contain such-and-such percentage of total alkaloids—not “emetine” only.

Under these circumstances, I would ask you to publish in your next issue a verification of your own “erroneous statements,” so that your readers may know what to think of the authentic reports you are publishing about the honesty of Hamburg druggers.

This gets us to the real point at issue between London and Hamburg dealers—viz., that the former have to sell ipecacuanha in the light of more recent knowledge than appears to have been shed upon Hamburg, and which shows that the alkaloidal constituents of the two ipecacuanhas differ to such an extent that the British Pharmacopœia, 1898, recognised only the Rio kind, rejecting the Cartagena, and the German Pharmacopœia, 1900, followed the British example. This fact appears not to have penetrated as far as Hamburg until this little controversy arose, and it may be of some advantage to repeat the facts which guided the German Pharmacopœia authorities as well as the British in their decision. Seven years ago (1894) Dr. B. H. Paul and Mr. A. J. Cownley began the investigation of the chemical constituents of the two ipecacuanhas, and in preliminary papers they proved the presence of two alkaloids—emetine and cephaëline—a third also being indicated, which has since been named psychotrine. Until this discovery emetine

was regarded as the sole alkaloidal constituent of ipecacuanha, and the authorities referred to above were of that opinion, but Messrs. Paul and Cownley's observations are conclusive, and have been corroborated by others. The importance of their discovery was enhanced in 1895, when Dr. Robert B. Wild, now Professor of Therapeutics at Owens College, Manchester, published results of his physiological and clinical work with the two alkaloids, which proved that as a diaphoretic emetine is much more powerful than cephaeline, while the latter has twice the emetic-power of emetine. Now the two roots contain the alkaloids in quite different proportions—as Messrs. Paul and Cownley showed in 1896, viz. :—

	Emetine			Cephaeline			Psychotrine		
	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	Per Cent.	
Rio (root)	1.45	0.52	0.04	1.18	0.59	0.03	0.89	1.25	0.06
Rio (stem)									
Cartagena									

It follows, therefore, that reports of analyses giving percentage of total alkaloids are perfectly valueless, and when the origin of the ipecacuanha is not stated, as was the case in the paragraph which we quoted on October 19, a total alkaloid-figure is misleading. We protest against that, and submit that while "ipecacuanha" of the British and German Pharmacopœias is Brazilian or Rio ipecacuanha, the other kind should always be sold as Cartagena ipecacuanha.

Effervescent Sodium Phosphate.

MR. THOMAS MACFARLANE, Chief Analyst of the Canadian Inland Revenue Department, has issued a report on sixty-four samples of effervescent sodium phosphate as sold in Canada, which were analysed by his assistants. Out of the sixty-four only thirteen were found to be genuine. Want of genuineness, in Mr. MacFarlane's opinion, appears to mean deficiency in sodium phosphate. The British Pharmacopœia requires the preparation to contain 50 parts of crystallised sodium phosphate in 145 parts, but the finished product really contains 20 per cent. of anhydrous sodium phosphate, and Mr. A. McGill, B.A. (Mr. MacFarlane's chief assistant), reckons this out to 10 per cent. of P_2O_5 . He recognises that a gradual reaction in the granules is inevitable on keeping, but remarks that manufacturers put the article up very carefully in order to prevent deterioration. Mr. McGill and the other analysts found only nine out of the sixty-four samples to be in excess of 10 per cent. P_2O_5 , three showing 11 per cent., three 18, and three over 19 per cent., one being sodium phosphate itself. Of the rest of the samples, two contained 2 per cent. of P_2O_5 , four 3 per cent., four 4 per cent., ten 5 per cent., thirteen 6 per cent., seven 7 per cent., two 8 per cent., four 9 per cent., and nine 10 per cent. The analysts did not, except in a few cases, distinguish between citric and tartaric acids; in a few samples no citric acid was found. The products were all, with one exception, either of Canadian or American manufacture. The single exception was an English sample, which was found to yield only 4.37 per cent. of P_2O_5 , so that it was less than half B.P. strength. Mr. McGill remarks, *à propos* of some samples resembling sodii citro-tartras effervescens :—

If samples containing sugar be sold as phosphate of soda, they are adulterated, within the meaning of the Act; while if sold as effervescent sodium citro-tartrate, they are adulterated, as containing phosphate of soda. It is not, however, to be understood that any blame attaches to those manufacturers who have, up to

this time, placed on the market an article of effervescent phosphate of soda, containing less (or more) than 10 per cent. of P_2O_5 . The preparation appears for the first time in the 1898 edition of the British Pharmacopœia, and is not contained at all in the United States Pharmacopœia. Manufacturing druggists were much in advance of the pharmacopœias, and in manufacturing from private formulas they naturally uttered an effervescent phosphate of variable character. Many of the samples were doubtless in the hands of dealers before the preparation became official in 1898. Now, however, that effervescent phosphate of soda has been authoritatively defined, it will be required of those who furnish it under its specific name that they should supply the British Pharmacopœia article.

It is somewhat curious, in the face of the observations which we have quoted, that the analysts did not direct their attention to the detection of any arsenic in the effervescent phosphate. Considering the fact that the United States Pharmacopœia, unlike the British Pharmacopœia, provides a test for arsenic in sodium phosphate, it would have been exceedingly interesting to see what effect that had on the quality of American effervescent sodium phosphate made before the arsenic-scare arose in this country.

The report also includes an analysis of Eno's fruit-salt by Dr. Ellis, made in October 1900, his analysis revealing 50.01 per cent. of sodium bicarbonate, and 47.11 per cent. of citric acid. Abbey's effervescent salt was at the same time analysed by Mr. Kenrick and Mr. Harrison, and their results are as under :—

	Kenrick	Harrison
Sulphuric acid (SO_5)	—	1.60
Magnesia (MgO)	0.86	0.83
Calculated to Epsom salts	5.29	5.10
Potash (K_2O)	1.61	2.25
Soda (Na_2O)	13.58	19.83
Calculated to bi-carb.	36.80	53.70
Carbon dioxide	18.67	—
Chlorine in chlorides	9.07	—
Cane-sugar	12.34	15.38
Tartaric acid	40.45	39.75

These are not very reconcilable analyses, the total absence of chlorides in one report being especially noticeable. Manufacturers who are interested in the report may be able to get a copy of it from the High Commissioner for Canada, 17 Victoria Street, London, S.W.

THE POISONS COMMITTEE.

As we announced last week, the Privy Council's Committee met on Wednesday, October 23. Mr. E. B. Masham, who is acting as Secretary to the Committee, informs us, on behalf of the Committee, that it has been decided to hear evidence, and the Committee has given directions for certain bodies to be invited to tender evidence. The Committee considers it advisable that the meetings should not be open to the public.

PHARMACY ACT CASES.

The Pharmaceutical Society's Prosecution Department had quite a busy time of it last month. In addition to the case against John McKinnell which we reported last week, they have succeeded in Chambers before Sheriff Fyfe in getting a conviction against John Leckie, unqualified assistant with Alexander W. Mason, described in the papers as "chemist, 597 Spriogburn Road, Glasgow." Mr. Mason is not a chemist and druggist at all, but holds the Scotch Triple Medical qualification. Leckie's offence was a sale of strychnine in the form of Easton's Syrup, and he had to pay a fine of 3*l.*, and a guinea and a half of expenses. In Dumbarton, before Sheriff Gebbie, a conviction was also obtained against Kate Marshall, employed in the open shop of Richard Allan, L.R.C.P.E. and L.F.P.S.G., who is Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Dumbarton, and a practitioner of nearly

thirty years' standing. Miss Marshall was convicted under the Act in April last, and was then fined 2*l.* 2*s.* and 1*l.* 5*s.* costs. She has now to pay 3*l.* 3*s.* and 1*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.* costs or suffer fourteen days' imprisonment for selling Easton's Syrup. This week the Society also proceeded against Dr. Allan for not entering the sale in the poison-book, and the Sheriff made remarks about it (see page 733). At Liverpool the Society has applied to Judge Collier for a committal order against John Eames, who in January was ordered to pay 15*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* for selling poisons in a branch shop belonging to Mr. Stephen Stephenson, pharmaceutical chemist, Kensington, Liverpool. Eames has not paid up, and the Society's application for the committal order was made by Mr. C. E. Nield, Mr. William Rudd appearing for the defendant. The latter explained that his client, although 29, is only an apprentice receiving 7*s.* 6*d.* a week, and he offered to pay 4*s.* a month. The Judge gave a committal order, but it will not come into force as long as Eames pays 4*s.* a month, and, as the committal order only lasts twelve months, Eames may have the distinction of beating the Society, as the cost of the application will probably be greater than the amount that Eames will pay.

DOMESTIC FILTERS.

Dr. Joseph Priestley, the Medical Officer of Health for Lambeth, raises the question of what standard of efficacy should be reached by domestic filters. He contends that household filtration is not the fad many put it down to be, but a practical necessity for the sure avoidance of water-borne disease. Elaborate investigations made in the joint laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons seem to show that most of the filters that depend upon charcoal or other form of carbon are more or less useless when by efficiency is meant the power of arresting disease-germs and preventing their passage into the filtered water. The two filters which in these investigations were shown to arrest germs were the Pasteur-Chamberland and the Berkefeld. The Pasteur-Chamberland filter consists of a specially prepared porcelain suggested by M. Pasteur and Dr. Chamberland, whilst in the Berkefeld filter infusorial earth is used. These considerations lead Dr. Priestley to suggest that the standard for filters for the British Army is not efficient, judging by the outbreak of typhoid fever in South Africa, the result being one more instance of the danger of drawing inferences beyond the actual facts of published experiments. "A high standard for domestic filtration is required, and the Pasteur-Chamberland filter would seem to attain that standard," is how the doctor expresses his preference for this well-known filter.

ROOM AT THE TOP.

If we may judge from special inquiries which have been addressed to us within the past month, there appears to be a scarcity at present of young pharmacists of good business ability and well up in analytical work. It appears to be exceedingly difficult to get beginners competent by education and examination to undertake pharmaceutical assaying, and one gentleman told us the other day that he has had an ineffectual search during the past four months for one with these qualifications to take a situation abroad. There is no lack of men of a kind, but there are few who are not wanting in some important factor, such as business application, initiative, and *nous*. Mr. H. S. Wellcome once remarked that 100-per-cent. men are those most needed in manufacturing pharmacy, and, judging from the "want" advertisements of his firm, the need for them is still felt in that as well as other quarters. We cannot think that capable young pharmacists are not to be got, or that the desire for leaving the retail for the comparative leisure of the wholesale has suddenly been extinguished, but the Major examination results this year certainly give colour to

the supposition that ability above the average is at a discount. We daresay some young men are prevented by the general depression of the trade from qualifying themselves as well as they might, and to these we would say that there is always room at the top, and the best equipment for starting the climb is thorough all-round pharmaceutical knowledge, with exceptional or specialised study in at least one department directly connected with manufacturing processes. With such equipment, and steady endeavour to find a desirable opening, there is little reason why any man, however obscure, should not find a field for his ability and energies which will enable him to prove that he is a 100-per-cent. man.

HOW NOT TO CALCULATE ADULTERATION.

Mr. Arthur E. Ekins, F.I.C., the analyst for Hertfordshire, in his report of September 30, states that 65 samples were examined. Of these 16 were drugs—namely, 6 samples of Gregory's-powder, 5 of lime-water, 2 of quinine-wine, 2 of mercury-ointment, and 1 of liquorice-powder. Three of the samples of Gregory's-powder were made with carbonate of magnesia; 1 sample of lime-water was deficient to the extent of 50 per cent. of lime, and 1 sample of mercury-ointment was deficient to the extent of 36 per cent. in mercury. Commenting upon these results Mr. Ekins remarks:—

I am sorry to find so large a percentage (25 per cent.) of adulterated drugs sold in the county. In the interests of the public health the purity of drugs is a matter of great importance, and it is the clear duty of pharmacists to uphold the official pharmacopoeia standards, since if the authority of the standard is destroyed unscrupulous persons will take the fullest advantage of the licence to adulterate drugs, and will reduce their valuable and active constituents to a minimum. It was, in my opinion, quite rightly held in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice last January by Mr. Justice Phillimore and Mr. Justice Bruce, that the British Pharmacopoeia was the legal authority for all preparations described therein.

Quite right; but the way that Mr. Ekins puts the proportion of adulteration is equivalent to saying that 25 per cent. of the drugs sold in Hertfordshire are adulterated, when, as a matter of fact, the reference is solely to specimens supplied to him. Mr. Ekins is a pharmaceutical chemist, and he will appreciate the importance of being absolutely accurate in statements which go before the public.

MEDICAL REFORM.

Mr. Victor Horsley is again on the war-path, the occasion being the election of direct representatives to the General Medical Council. He spoke at Birmingham on Thursday, October 24, to the General Practitioners' Union of the district, "Medical Reform" being his topic. He dealt at some length with the Birmingham Consultative Institute and the trouble which Dr. Irving had got into with the General Medical Council through it. He then took up the question of suppression of unqualified practice, saying that efforts of the profession to protect the public against fraud and quackery were not only ignored by the Government, but opposition was offered to them. While the profession discharged its obligations under the Medical Act the State did not carry out its share of the bargain and protect the practice. The Privy Council had done nothing but shower contempt on the General Medical Council. While this injury had been inflicted on the General Medical Council from above, the same contempt was exhibited by corporate bodies, the College of Physicians and the College of Surgeons, from below. They took upon themselves to make a point of refusing to carry out the regulations of the General Medical Council. It seemed a very melancholy thing that the Colleges should in any way attempt to support themselves by running the system of medical education, and yet that was what it would come to. If they did not succeed in centring these powers in the General Medical Council and in making that body really representative of the profession by a new Medical Act, then medical education would receive a set-back from which it would not recover for twenty years.

Legal Reports.

Trade Law.

Three Years' Tenancies.—At Westminster County Court on October 25, Deputy-Judge Hortou Smith, K.C., heard evidence in an action regarding the payment of a solicitor's agreement for a three years' tenancy of a 46l. house. The landlady instructed her solicitor to draw up an agreement and the tenant, after the matter was completed, was presented by the solicitor with a bill for 2l. 12s., which he refused to pay. This led to the recent action. In the course of the argument it was pointed out that a three years' agreement is not a lease, and that, although in the case of a lease it is usual for the tenant to pay the solicitor's expenses, it is not so with three years' agreements. But the solicitor who drew up the agreement submitted that it is a lease, whereupon the Judge pointed out that the document in question was only a memorandum or agreement, and that there was nothing in it about an agreement for a lease except a mention in the heading. He also stated that when a three years' house agreement expires and the tenant remains without a further agreement it is for the same term, and not as a year to year tenant, as is generally supposed. The case was adjourned for further consideration.

High Court Cases.

BARBER v. NORWICH VINEGAR AND DISTILLERY COMPANY (LIMITED).

THIS action was mentioned before Mr. Justice Joyce in the Chancery Division on October 25, Mr. Bonner, on behalf of the plaintiff, moving for the appointment of a receiver and manager of the defendant company. The plaintiff, Miss Marion Barber, held debentures for 4,500l. out of a total issue of 5,000l. His Lordship made the order accordingly, the receiver (the manager of the company) giving security and the plaintiff undertaking in the meantime to be responsible for his receipts.

THE SHIP MARK FOR SOAPS.

IN the Chancery Division on October 25, before Mr. Justice Joyce, the case of Price's Patent Candle Company (Limited) v. Jeyes' Sanitary Compound's Company (Limited) came on for decision. It was a motion for an injunction to restrain the defendants from using the device of a ship upon any poster, advertisement, or otherwise in connection with the sale of any soap not of the plaintiffs' manufacture. The plaintiffs' case was that for more than twenty years they had used as their trade-mark the device of a ship in full sail, and their goods had become known in the market as "ship-mark" goods. The defendants had recently issued a large coloured poster containing a device of a Norwegian ship with a single sail on which was a large red cross. The poster also contained the words "Jeyes' Fluid Powder Soaps." The defendants' device did not resemble the plaintiffs', and defendants did not use it upon their labels or wrappers, but used a trade-mark consisting of a picture of a nurse with a cross upon her arm. Mr. Justice Joyce, in refusing an injunction, said that the plaintiffs had not proved any actual deception, and did not impute to the defendants any fraudulent intent. The question was whether the poster complained of was a misrepresentation and would lead to the injury of the plaintiffs. That was a question of fact. Without going so far as to say that the use of this poster might not lead persons of phenomenal ignorance or stupidity to make mistakes, he did not think that it would have that effect in the case of persons of ordinary common-sense.

Merchandise-Marks Act.

"CHLOROS."

AT Southwark Police Court on October 25, Adcock, Easton & Co., of Charteris Works, Charteris Road, Finsbury, were summoned before Mr. Paul Taylor by Mr. James Seymour Wade, the London representative of the United Alkali Company, of Liverpool, for unlawfully applying the false trade-description of "Chloros" to certain goods and for selling the same. There were ten summonses in all. Mr.

Stewart Brown, barrister, appeared in support of the summonses, and Mr. Mallinson, barrister, was for the defence. Mr. Brown, in opening the case, explained that "Chloros" is a disinfectant manufactured by the United Alkali Company, and the name, plus two hands, is registered as a trade-mark. In March, 1901, the Southwark Borough Council advertised for tenders for the supply of "Chloros," and the defendants' tender to supply it at 1s. per gal. was accepted. At that time they had no contract with the United Alkali Company to supply them with "Chloros," but in the latter part of April, on receiving an order from the Borough Council for a delivery of some of this disinfectant, they wrote to the United Alkali Company, who agreed to supply it for 1s. 6d. per gal. Following this, "Chloros" was shipped to the defendants at various times in jars similar to those generally used for whisky. Stoppers, similar to those in champagne bottles, were in the jars, and there was a piece of sacking tied over each stopper. When some of the jars were afterwards delivered to the Borough Council it was observed that the stoppers had been removed and corks placed in their stead, and the sacking had been used to tighten the corks. Samples were taken, and it was discovered that the "Chloros" had been diluted. Mr. Paul Taylor: How did the United Alkali Company know that this "Chloros" went to the Borough Council? Mr. Brown: They are the sole manufacturers of "Chloros," and they tendered to supply it at 1s. 3d. per gal. They did not get the tender, and were surprised to find that people who did not make it could supply it at so much lower rate. Proceeding, he said that 180 gals. were delivered to the Borough Council, but only 150 came from the United Alkali Company, and that increase of 20 per cent. in the quantity agreed in a remarkable way with the analysis. Mr. Arthur Harrison, engineer and surveyor to the Southwark Borough Council, gave evidence as to the tenders, and produced the counterfoil of the orders and the invoices received from the defendants. Cross-examined, he stated that the specification described the required article as sodium hypochlorite of not less strength than 10 per cent. weight of chlorine. Mr. Mallinson: Sodium hypochlorite has been known a hundred years. Witness replied that he did not remember for so long a period. He told the defendants that they could get the "Chloros" from the United Alkali Company. He did not care where they obtained it so long as it was of the required strength. Mr. Stewart Brown mentioned that "Chloros" was of the strength mentioned in the specification. Mr. Mallinson said the defendants tendered to supply sodium hypochlorite. If the disinfectant they supplied was not of the required strength it did not follow, he submitted, that they had applied a false trade-description. The witness, in reply to the Magistrate, said that what he expected to be supplied with was "Chloros" or some equivalent in strength. Several witnesses having given evidence as to "Chloros" being well known as the United Alkali Company's manufacture, the case was adjourned.

The hearing was resumed on October 26, when Mr. Shruballs Smith, consulting engineer to the United Alkali Company, was the first witness called, and gave evidence as to the taking of samples. Mr. Mallinson complained that the defendants had not been supplied with any of the samples, in order that they could have a separate analysis taken. Mr. Smith, cross-examined, said that sodium hypochlorite had been known for many years, but only of a strength of 3 per cent. It was made 10 per cent. in 1895, but only by the United Alkali Company. A paper written by him, and published in 1898, showed how it could be made of greater strength. Mr. Mallinson: If you sent me a bottle of "Chloros," and on the journey it depreciated in strength, would it still be "Chloros"? Witness: It would not be "Chloros" unless it was brought up to the proper standard before it was delivered. Further cross-examined, the witness said that the chlorine would eat away a little of the wooden stopper, but to a very trifling extent; and, being a very powerful agent, if it touched the sacking the sacking would rot. To anyone receiving a jar for the first time it might appear as if a new stopper was required. They had no knowledge that any of the jars were received by the defendants without any stoppers. They would not complain if the defendants merely re-corked the jars. Formal evidence was then given, and the case was adjourned for six days.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

BORIC ACID IN BUTTER.

AT Folkestone on October 26, Pearks, Gunston & Tee (Limited) appealed against the decision of the Magistrates fining the appellants 50*l.* and costs for selling butter containing boric acid; and Mr. Recorder Coward quashed the conviction, with full costs. Mr. Bousfield, for the appellants, told the Court that his witnesses were Dr. Tunncliffe, member of the Government Departmental Committee; Dr. Luff, from the Home Office; Dr. Thresh, Medical Officer of Health for Essex; Mr. Bannister, late deputy chief of the Government Laboratory, Somerset House; besides three chief importers of butter.

LINIMENT OF SOAP.

AT the Clerkenwell Police Court on October 30, Boots, Cash Chemists (Southern) (Limited), successors to Day's Metropolitan Drug Company, 79 Camberwell Road, were summoned by Jas. Cowling, sanitary inspector, on behalf of the Islington Borough Council, before Mr. D'Eyncourt, for selling, at 167 Upper Street, Islington, liniment of soap containing methylated alcohol which had been substituted for the alcohol (spiritus rectificatus) of the Pharmacopœia. Mr. Bramall prosecuted, and Mr. Beck defended. Clara Herbert proved the purchase of the liniment of soap. Inspector Cowling proved submitting the sample purchased to the public analyst. He called the attention of the manager of the shop to the fact that "Boots, Cash Chemists," was on the invoice, although "Day's Drug-stores" was over the shop. The manager replied, "Yes; it's changed hands. It's about all the same thing." Cross-examined: The name of Boots might now be over the premises; but he had not noticed it.

Mr. Beck submitted that there was no case against Boots. Mr. D'Eyncourt: Yes; there is.

Mr. Beck applied to have the third sample sent to Somerset House for analysis. He remarked that after the summons was issued the clerk to Boots (Limited) went to the Islington Town Hall, and stated that the wrong parties were being prosecuted. As a matter of fact, Boots had recently taken over a number of businesses in the name of Day's Drug-stores. The actual contract of purchase took effect some months ago, but the completion did not take place until October. Until the completion, he contended, Day's were responsible for carrying on the business. For the purpose of proving ownership, he asked for an adjournment.

A copy of the *C. & D.* was produced to prove the transfer of the business before the sale was made.

Mr. D'Eyncourt: I shall not allow you to have an adjournment on both grounds. If you decide to have an adjournment for the purpose of taking an analysis, I shall not allow you to again raise the question of ownership. You must decide on which ground you will take your adjournment. You ought to have been prepared with your case.

Mr. Beck: Very well; I will not go into the question of analysis. I will take the adjournment on the ground of ownership.

The case was accordingly adjourned.

PARKE'S DRUG-STORES (LIMITED), of 173 High Street, Camden Town, were summoned by the Islington Borough Council for selling at 251 Upper Street, Islington, liniment of soap containing methylated alcohol which had been substituted for the alcohol (spiritus rectificatus) of the Pharmacopœia. Formal evidence was given of the purchase of a sample from the shop, 251 Upper Street, and its analysis by the public analyst. Mr. Peck applied for an adjournment in order that a portion of the sample might be sent to Somerset House for analysis.

Mr. D'Eyncourt consented to an adjournment.

MILK OF SULPHUR.

AT Southwold Petty Sessions on October 23, before Mr. E. O. Debnay (in the chair), Dr. Woollett, and Dr. Herbert, R. P. Critten, chemist and druggist, was charged with selling milk of sulphur adulterated with 57 per cent. of sulphate of lime. The defendant pleaded not guilty, saying that to the best of his belief he asked Superintendent Andrews whether he wanted the ordinary commercial milk of sulphur or the best precipitated. He was simply asked for milk of sulphur, and supplied the commercial article.

He did not think the contention could be borne out that it was prejudicial to the customer. The Town Clerk: Is there any difference in the price? Mr. Critten: Very slight, and makes no difference to the retail price. It was a trap that 90 per cent. of chemists might fall into. He maintained that if pure or precipitate sulphur was wanted it should have been asked for. After thirty-five years' residence in Southwold he prided himself on sending out first-class articles. The case was dismissed on the defendant paying 6*s.* costs, because the Magistrates were doubtful if the sale was to the prejudice of the customer.

SPIRIT OF NITRE A PERISHABLE ARTICLE.

AT Saxmundham Sessions on October 24, before Messrs. T. P. Borrett (Chairman) and J. K. Brooke, John Henry Gostling, of Halesworth, pharmaceutical chemist, was charged with selling, on September 16, sweet spirit of nitre which was not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded. Mr. R. J. Owen appeared for the defence, instructed by the Chemists' Defence Association. Superintendent Andrews proved the purchase, and produced the analyst's certificate.

Mr. Owen objected to this certificate because it did not state, as required by Section 18 of the 1875 Act and the schedule thereto, "whether any change had taken place in the constitution of the article." Mr. Owen explained to the Bench that spirit of nitre is an article liable to decomposition.

Mr. W. Lincoln Sutton, public analyst, was called, and deposed to analysing the sample, in which he found 82 per cent. deficiency of ethyl nitrite. In cross-examination, witness said a chemical change would take place under certain conditions, such as being exposed to air or light; but he maintained that the deterioration in this case was chiefly by evaporation.

In proof of the objection submitted by Mr. Owen, Mr. Martin Priest stated that directly a bottle containing sweet spirit of nitre was opened it commenced to evaporate and decompose; the residue was consequently weaker in its constituents. In answer to Superintendent Andrews, witness said a chemist would not be wise to keep it in an ordinary bottle on a shelf in the shop; he should keep it in an amber-coloured bottle, so as to protect it from the light as much as possible.

Mr. Glyn-Jones also deposed that sweet spirit of nitre was an article that it was impossible to sell to the public at the strength set down by the British Pharmacopœia. Apart from evaporation, it was liable to decomposition. Witness told the Bench that he had purchased over a score of samples in London, and more than half of them were under the Pharmacopœia minimum. In answer to Superintendent Andrews, witness said quite half of the prosecutions in the country under the Act as regards pharmacopœia preparations were over sweet spirit of nitre. The deficiency of strength could not be avoided. The Magistrates asked witness if the spirit changed like milk or butter, and he replied that the principal constituent of spirit of nitre—ethyl nitrite—rapidly decomposed in presence of water and air. There was water in the spirit itself, and the sample in court was in a bottle that had a large air-space. He was strongly of opinion that the sample was not in the condition in which it was sold.

Mr. Owen having pressed for a decision on his objection, the Magistrates retired, and, on their return, the Chairman said the prosecution failed, as the analyst's certificate was not in accordance with the Act. The summons was accordingly dismissed.

County Court Cases.

A CHEMIST AND HIS DIFFICULTIES.

IN the City of London Court on October 29, before Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., the case of Megeeson & Co. (Limited) v. Wooster was mentioned. The plaintiffs, of 14 Miles Lane, Upper Thames Street, E.C., had sued the defendant, Mr. W. Wooster, chemist, Southall, for 15*l.* 10*s.* 4*d.* for goods supplied to him in the way of his trade. Judgment had been given for him in default of the plaintiffs' appearance, and they now applied to have the case reinstated. The defendant did not dispute his liability, but he wanted the Court to say that he should pay 2*l.* per month, because he had made similar

terms with his other creditors. Unfortunately, he said, he had been pushed by his creditors, and he was now getting out of his troubles by the aid of a friend, but his friend would not give the plaintiffs' the personal guarantee they wanted. Mr. Hugill, plaintiffs' solicitor, said they could not rely upon the defendant's word. He had written a dozen letters, and he had sent cheques which had been returned, and made promises of payment which he had not kept. The plaintiffs were so disgusted with the defendant breaking his word that they would not take 2*l.* per month unless it was guaranteed. The defendant had a shop full of stock. They did not want to be hard upon him. The Judge said the plaintiffs would have judgment payable in a week. That would give the defendant time to turn round.

AN ELECTRICAL-MASSAGE ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the Westminster County Court on October 30, Deputy-Judge Horton Smith, K.C., heard evidence in the action brought by Messrs Mather & Crowther, advertising-agents, New Bridge Street, E.C., to recover 3*4l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* for work done for the defendant, Otto E. Muschik, of the Vihatorium, Oxford Street, W. Mr. Lawless was counsel for the plaintiffs, and defendant conducted his own case. The case for the plaintiffs was that defendant had three photographs, taken by an amateur at his residence at Hampstead, showing his electrical-massage machine in use. Plaintiffs were to make, engravings from the photographs, and they were made, and 5*l.* charged. They were to appear in defendant's advertisement, and he got them made in Germany, discarding those made by the plaintiffs, who printed the advertisement, using the German blocks. The printing-account was for 28*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.* and the balance was for composing four pages of fresh matter. The defence was that only a pencil-sketch was to be made. His Honour said the case was clear on the correspondence. Mr. Martin Kruger, who was manager to Dr. Muschik at the time of the order, said a pencil-sketch only was intended. His Honour said any mistake there had been was due to Mr. Kruger not understanding English, and found for the plaintiffs, with costs.

Pharmacy Act 1868.

SALE OF EASTON'S SYRUP.

AT Dumbarton Sheriff Court on October 29—Sheriff Gebbie on the bench—Dr. Richard Allan, Dumbarton, was charged at the instance of Mr. Richard Bremridge, Registrar to the Pharmaceutical Society, with a contravention of the 17th section of the Pharmacy Act, by selling to a person unknown to the seller a quantity of Easton's syrup, containing strychnine, and failing to have the sale entered in the poison-book, also with failing to label it "Poison."

Respondent pleaded not guilty, and his solicitor (Mr. McFarlane) said this was the same offence as his Lordship punished Dr. Allan's servant for last week, and he thought it was a strange thing that this Society, who knew the facts, did not bring this charge forward last court-day, so that his Lordship might have the whole facts before him, instead of dealing with the matter in this piecemeal way. He thought that the prosecution of Dr. Allan was oppressive, and that it was incompetent, because an attempt was being made to get a second conviction on the same *species facti*. He admitted that the girl did sell this poison, not only without the knowledge of the doctor, but directly contrary to his express instructions.

The Sheriff said he had nothing to do with whether the prosecution was oppressive or not there and at that time. If Mr. McFarlane had any objections to the relevancy he thought he should state them.

Mr. Peter Morrison, jun. (for the prosecutor), said there was no ground whatever for suggesting that the proceedings were oppressive. It was a different charge, under another section of the Act, and against a different offender. Besides, Section 17 stated that for the purposes of this section the person on whose behalf the sale was made by any servant or apprentice was deemed to be the seller. The doctor was therefore in the position of employer. As to bringing the case up last week, the first offence had to be established before this other offence could be properly dealt with. The Registrar

had a public duty to perform, and he was under the necessity of bringing this entirely different charge against the person who was struck at by the provisions of Section 17. The other offender had been punished, not under that section at all, but under Sections 1 and 15, for an illegal sale of poison. There was no charge of illegal sale of poison against the doctor. Section 17 made provision for the labelling of poisons, and that was what had been totally disregarded in this case. He further pointed out that in the case against the girl, the agent did not state that she sold the poison directly contrary to her employer's instructions. He asked the Sheriff to fix a diet for proof.

Mr. McFarlane: Are you not ready now? I have one witness here, and I think that should be noticed.

The Sheriff said that in all criminal cases the accused party was cited to appear, and if he pleaded not guilty he asked for an adjournment in order that he might cite witnesses. Indeed, if he were to decide otherwise, the case would certainly be upset in the Judiciary Court on the ground that there was oppressive procedure. What held good in one case he thought should also apply to the other party, and, therefore, he would adjourn the case for proof till Monday, November 11.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re GEORGE BLAND TOWLER, trading as a Chemist at Heath Town, Wolverhampton.—A meeting of creditors was to have been held at the office of the Wolverhampton Official Receiver on October 29, but no one put in an appearance, and the matter was left to be dealt with by the Official Receiver.

Re JAMES CHARNOCK MARSHALL, Manufacturing Chemist, Castleton, Rochdale.—This debtor appeared for his adjourned examination at Rochdale Bankruptcy Court on October 24. After further questioning, the Registrar (Mr. J. T. Worth) said debtor was not giving a full explanation of his position, and unless he were satisfied that the debtor had made a full disclosure of his affairs prior to and since the bankruptcy was commenced, he should adjourn the examination *sine die*. The examination was again adjourned.

Re WILLIAM STOKOE WHITE, Salford, Chemist and Druggist.—At the Salford County Court on October 23, before Mr. E. Brierley, Deputy-Judge, this debtor asked for his discharge. He had become bankrupt when 25 years of age, his total liabilities amounting to 70*4l.* 9*s.* 6*d.* No assets were disclosed, but a little over 10*d.* in the pound had been paid as dividend. It was stated that the debtor did not become aware of his insolvency until after judgment had been given against him in an action. The dividend had come out of some mortgaged property at Skipton. The Official Receiver said the debtor had contracted debts without any probability of paying them, and had not come to the court when his assets were of the value of 10*s.* in the pound. His discharge was suspended for two years.

Re THOMAS PARKINS, 267 Chapel Street, Salford, Chemist and Druggist.—The public examination of this debtor took place at the Salford Bankruptcy Court on October 25. Particulars of the failure were given in our issue of October 19, page 655. In the course of the examination he told Mr. Dibb, the Official Receiver, that after his wife died in September 1893 he carried on the business under the provisions of her will. She purchased the business from him (Mr. Dibb) after debtor's bankruptcy in 1884. She gave 60*l.* or 70*l.* for it; she got the money on loan. Mr. Dibb: Did you let anybody know you were carrying on the business as her executor?—No, I did not think it was necessary. What had you on your billheads?—They are headed "debtor" to myself. I had to do that according to the provisions of the Pharmacy Act. I had to have my name on the labels, the sign over the door, and everywhere else. But the Pharmacy Act did not prevent you from having your name printed as executor for your late wife. Under his late wife's will, debtor said, he was to carry on the business until his youngest son was 35 years of age. He never kept any books of account in connection with the trust, nor had he ever prepared any profit-and-loss account. He had never been initiated into the art of bookkeeping. He had been in good situations, but never saw his employers keep books. He did not know it was the duty of an executor to keep books, although he was trustee for his children. The dentistry business was carried on separately from the chemist's business. The

dentistry business belonged to his son, who kept a proper account and paid him so much. The Official Receiver: There is no chance of your paying $\frac{1}{2}d.$ in the pound?—No. Why did you not come to the Court when your assets were of the value of 10s. in the pound?—Because I did not know it was the law. You give bad trade, want of capital, and severe competition as the causes of your failure. How was that?—Well, Boots, Cash Chemists, opened a shop four doors from me, and that has done me a lot of harm. Their low prices I could not stand against. Still they have to employ qualified assistants. I suppose they had trade you mean insufficient trade?—Yes, not enough. How did want of capital affect you?—I had to buy dearer. When did you first know you were insolvent?—Not until the last three or four months. I was hoping that trade would improve and that I should get over it until I was pressed with these judgments. I am quite unaware, even to-day, that I have been living on my creditors. What has been your average turnover in the chemist's business during the last five years?—About 350l. a year. I have a son in the shop, and there were rent, rates, and taxes. I do not know what my weekly expenses were, but there would not be a very large sum left for profits. Law costs during two or three years have come to 50l. After being questioned regarding various loans debtor said, although he had not kept proper books, he had kept a record of his cash takings. He had done that for years to see how much he was taking. He had seen the same system adopted in other places where he had been. He had no other system. That and the invoice-file are all he had to show what he was doing. Why have you not kept a record of your business transactions?—I did not know that it was necessary. With a deficiency of nearly 600l. how did you manage to conceal from yourself the knowledge that you were insolvent?—I obtained nearly 300l. from my present wife, and there was 150l. in loans, and trade liabilities 150l. I paid debts with my wife's money, and I put in a new window which cost me 50l. There were twenty-five judgments and one action against you at the time of the filing of your petition. These judgments began in February, 1900, and extended to September last?—I had arranged most of the payments with them. The debtor was further questioned as to his insolvency at Huddersfield, and when told that some of his creditors had lent him money not knowing he was an undischarged bankrupt he said they must have known it from seeing it in the papers. The examination was adjourned. The following are creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Binks, R. H., Manchester... ..	17	15	0
Gibbon, E., Salford	23	0	0
Hockin, Wilson & Co., London ...	19	9	2
McCausland, A., Manchester ...	12	0	0
Manchester Advance & Discount Bank (Limited), Manchester	30	0	0
Parkins, Mrs. E., Salford	275	0	0
Rusholme Road Loan Association, Man- chester	10	9	6
Bankers' claims	15	0	0
Contingent liabilities (not expected to rank)	44	0	0
Preferential creditors	15	2	6

Liabilities unsecured, 157l. 16s. 8d.; estimated net assets, 32l. The following are amongst the creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Hoyle, S. (executors of), Bury	52	0	0
London & Provincial Loan Company, Manchester	15	0	0
Potter & Clarke, London	10	0	0
Woolley, Sons & Co. (Limited), Man- chester	27	0	0

New Companies & Company News.

TIMOTHY HONES & Co. (LIMITED).—Capital 2,000l., in 1l. shares. Objects: To carry on in all its branches the business of tea-dealers, provision, drug, and chemical merchants, &c. No initial public issue. Table "A" mainly applies. Registered office, Woolpack Place, Moor Street, Birmingham.

STEPHEN SMITH & Co. (LIMITED).—Dividend warrants of 3 per cent. on the ordinary shares of this company for the half year ended September 30 were posted on October 25.

PROGRESS COMPANY (LIMITED).—A petition was presented on October 21 by Messrs. C. R. Harker, Stagg & Morgan, wholesale druggists, for the winding-up of this company. The hearing will take place at the Birmingham County Court on November 14.

UNITED INDIGO AND CHEMICAL COMPANY (LIMITED).—The report of the directors for the year ended June 30, submitted to the meeting held in Manchester on October 31, states that the date of the meeting has been delayed in consequence of the absence of the chairman and one of the other directors in America, where they have been making arrangements for the establishment of an American branch. After providing for depreciation of plant and machinery, bad debts, directors' remuneration, and all other charges, there remains a profit, including the amount brought from last year's account, of 14,203l. Out of this amount the dividend on the preference shares has been paid, amounting to 6,824l., leaving a balance available for division of 7,378l. This amount the directors recommend should be appropriated in payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (4,550l.), to write off the formation expenses (2,342l.) and to carry to next year's account 486l.

SUPER-AERATION COMPANY, 1901 (LIMITED).—The statutory meeting of shareholders was held at Winchester House, London, on October 29. Mr. E. Wolsley, chairman of the company, presided, and said that since they had launched out into business everything had gone on in the most satisfactory manner. He also read glowing testimonials as to the utility of the "draught arm," and said there was room for two or three more companies such as theirs, and he would welcome their competition. In answer to several requests he said the patents owned by the company had thirteen years yet to run. Within the past three months their output had nearly doubled. At the Brewer's Exhibition alone 500 orders were taken from various classes of mineral-water dealers. If everything went well with this company in all probability they would have a big company in Ireland which would almost equal in success the original London company, and this company would receive a good share of the profits of that latest flotation. Up to the present 1,000 "arms" had been supplied in the United Kingdom; he did not think it judicious to mention how many of these were fixed in London alone, and they had orders for 200 more. It was on the advice of their solicitor that the capital had been split up; a shareholder who originally owned one 5l. share now held five 1l. shares. There was no motion before the meeting, which here terminated.

OLIVE-GROWERS TO ORGANISE.—It is reported from Los Angeles that more than two-thirds of the olive-growers of California have united in an attempt to obtain better prices for their product. They have appointed a committee to devise a plan for the organisation of all the olive-growers of the State, first forming a local organisation. Specific laws against the adulteration of olive oil will be urged upon the next Congress.

Re PETER CAMPBELL FORBES, Morley, Chemist.—A receiving order has been made against this debtor.

Deeds of Arrangement.

Blinkhorn, Mark, 47 Henrietta Street, Old Trafford, Manchester. Several applications were made on October 28 to Mr. Justice Wright, in the King's Bench Division, for orders upon trustees to file accounts of the cash received and paid by them under deeds of arrangement. In the case of Mark Blinkhorn, Mr. Muir Mackenzie, on behalf of the Board of Trade, stated that in September, 1898, Mr. James Edwin Winn, of 39 Higher Ardwick, and 12 Albert Place, Longsight, Manchester, dealer in drugs, entered into a deed of arrangement with his creditors, under which Mr. Blinkhorn was appointed trustee. The latter was directed by the Board of Trade, on June 27 last, to submit within seven days an account of all receipts and payments under the deed. He had not complied with the direction, and the Court was accordingly moved to order the account to be filed in four days. The respondent did not appear to oppose the application, which was granted by his Lordship, with costs.

Pennington, Thomas Moscrop, Herbalist, 20 Agur Street, Bury, Lancs. Trustee, Richard W. Wood, 27 Parson's Lane, Bury, I.A. Dated, October 18; filed, October 25.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

Irish Pharmaceutical Council Election.

SIR,—As a rule I am always very loth to rush into print, but think it my duty, as President of our Society, to answer Mr. English's letter which appeared in your last week's issue. Mr. English, as he states, was a candidate for a seat on our Council at the late election, and I regret very much that he has taken his defeat so deeply to heart as to lead him into writing such a letter, the bad taste of which is much to be pitied. The circular of which he complains (a copy of which I enclose) was sent out by the Vice-President and myself, which we considered necessary (we having nominated three of the new members), in order that the members should not think that we desired in any way to oppose members seeking re-election, or wished to create a contest; on the contrary, we refrained from sending in nominations almost until the time for so doing had expired, in the hope of others doing so, and it was not till after we had forwarded the nominations that Mr. English was nominated. If this gentleman would only read the circular with an unbiased mind he would see that we did not mention that Mr. J. Smith (now a member of Council) was either a representative of the Midlands or Cork, and I consider it is quite immaterial whether a candidate be English, Scotch, or Irish provided he is willing to work for the welfare of the members and society at large. Mr. English complains that I directed the circular from the Society's house, 67 Lower Mount Street. Of this I am quite prepared to take the responsibility, and think that there is no one to be member or licentiate so narrow-minded (except Mr. English) who will say I have for one moment forgotten so far myself "as to prostitute my position to become canvassing-agent." Mr. English boasts of his not having canvassed a vote, but if my information is correct, and I have no reason to doubt it, Mr. English himself sent his nomination-paper to one of our members and asked him to second it. So much for this statement. Neither is his boast very complimentary to his brother members. I would imagine that if the position was worth having it was worth the asking. He also complains that the numbers of the votes were not published. Certainly this was an oversight of mine and of the Registrar's, and I now do so, and trust that the figures will act as a salve to his disturbed feelings. They are as follows:—

Candidates	Votes
Mr. P. Kelly	83
Mr. J. Smith	79
Mr. G. H. Grindley	78
Mr. Brown	72
Mr. R. Blair	69
Mr. H. V. Goldon	63
Mr. Tate	58
Mr. English	45

Again he complains that owing to the action of a former president he resigned membership. I was curious to find out who was this offending president, and in looking up the records of Mr. English's membership find he was first elected on November 4 1885. I cannot find his name recorded as a member for the years 1886 to 1888. On September 4, 1889, he was again elected a member, and in the following month was a candidate for Council honours, but was defeated. He resigned membership in December, 1894; from this date till September of the present year he again appears to have left off membership, when he was re-elected, and in October (this month) again sought for a seat on the Council, but was again unsuccessful. History repeats itself.

In conclusion, I deeply deplore Mr. English's closing

remarks—"No Roman Catholic need apply." Up to this I was not aware of what religious persuasion Mr. English was, neither do I ask now what it is; but I do wish to inform him that the first gentleman approached and pressed to take office was a Roman Catholic, and I am very pleased indeed to inform Mr. English that one of the newly elected Councillors is also one, and it is with much pleasure I welcome him. Apologising for trespassing so far on your valuable space,

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

G. D. BEGGS.

The Dalkey Medical Hall.

SIR,—In your last issue a letter appears from Mr. English, who was an unsuccessful candidate at the recent election of seven members of Council. In his letter Mr. English attempts to account for this, his third failure, on the grounds that all the successful candidates were nominated by the President and myself, and that we issued a circular from 67 Lower Mount Street. He then proceeds to drag in both the nationality and religious opinions of candidates, and misquotes the circular by altering the punctuation and thus confusing the sense, and announces his intention to resign membership, but omits to state that this will be his third resignation of the Society. For the information of your readers, I beg to say that the action taken by the President and myself in nominating three candidates was considered by us to be official duty when we found no nominations coming in, although the time for lodging the same had almost expired, and it was necessary by our Act that the vacancies should be filled. Finding, however, that later another nomination arrived (Mr. English), we felt it but right that our members should have explained to them the circumstances which induced our action, and consequently we issued, in our official capacity an explanatory circular, lest in the absence of such it might be thought by any member that we either wished to contest the seats of those members who sought re-election, or that we in any way desired to monopolise the nominations. I have no wish to comment on Mr. English's attempt to draw in the subject of religion, but as I may now take it from him that he is a Roman Catholic, I have every confidence in referring him to his fellow Churchmen who have served, and at present serve, on the Council for a complete refutation of his insinuations. Personally I hope, and firmly believe, that the day will never come when the religious convictions of any candidate will prove either a disability or a sole qualification at any election in connection with our Society.

Yours truly,

J. I. BERNARD.

Dublin, October 29.

Vice-President Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Subjoined is the text of the circular referred to:—

67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, September 26, 1901. Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. October election of members of Council. Dear Sir,—You will see by the voting paper sent you by the Registrar, that we have jointly nominated three candidates for the vacancies which have occurred through present members not seeking re-election. We wish to inform you that these nominations were only made shortly before the time allowed would have expired, in order to see if any other candidates were nominated. Subsequently, however, another gentleman was nominated, of whose intended candidature we were totally unaware. Feeling that Cork, and also the Midland Counties, should be represented, we are very glad to have the pleasure of nominating Mr. Richard Blair, M.P.S.I., Cork; Mr. H. V. Goldon, M.P.S.I., Birr; and Mr. John Smith, M.P.S.I., Terenure; all of whom we believe would be most useful members, and we therefore strongly recommend them to you. Trusting our action may receive your endorsement and support, we are, yours obediently, G. D. BEGGS (President), J. I. BERNARD (Vice-President).

SIR,—Referring to Mr. English's letter in your issue of October 26, I would point out that one of the three successful candidates at the recent election is a Roman Catholic. So far as I am aware, a candidate's religion has nothing whatever to do with the result. As regards the circular referred to, I had nothing to do with its issue, but having been elected to the Council I shall endeavour to do my best for the good of pharmacy, independent of any clique, if such exist.

Yours truly,

Dublin, October 28.

JOHN SMITH.

SIR,—Adverting to Mr. English's letter in your last issue re the recent election of Councillors at the annual meeting

of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, when the present year expires I also intend resigning membership of the Society. There was no necessity for such *sub rosa* work in the election of the new Councillors. Why the voting was not published is a mystery to me; I expected to find it in the report of the annual meeting as it appeared in the official journal. Although I am at one with Mr. English in objecting to the Society's *modus operandi*, yet I am sorry to see him attack, in a left-handed fashion, a brother suburban chemist who also happened to be a candidate at the late election. I am convinced, if the voting-list were published, Mr. Smith's name would stand very high, if not, indeed, at the top of the poll.

Yours truly,
Belfast, October 28.

SAMUEL HOGG, L.P.S.I.

Saffron in Burma.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to a paragraph under "Produce Notes" in your issue of September 21 (page 506) regarding the use and trade of saffron in Burma. I am inclined to regard a confusion in the statement between saffron and the more commonly employed turmeric-root. The vernacular names for saffron are often applied to turmeric by natives of Southern India, and even merchants in the country use the English terms indiscriminately. The present Persian name for turmeric is *Zard-chubah*, or "stick-saffron," which indicates a close resemblance between the two spices.

True turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) is largely cultivated in India, especially in Madras, whence it is exported to Burma and other Eastern countries; but saffron (*Crocus sativus*) would have a very limited sale compared with turmeric. The only district in India in which saffron is cultivated to any extent is Kashmir, and it is mainly exported to the Punjab, where it is used largely as a dye. Burma at present is not known as a field for saffron-growing, and the large quantity of 60,000 viss, which is equivalent to a little over 5 tons, is an exceptional output for a product consisting of the styles and stigmas of the flowers, while such a harvest would be nothing out of the way if turmeric were referred to. The price of the article—about 1r. per lb.—is also nearer the market value of turmeric than it is of saffron.

DAVID HOOPER.

Indian Museum, Calcutta, October 10.

Tarweed not a New Thing.

SIR,—In the *Pharmaceutical Era* of October 17 there appears the following paragraph:—

Tarweed is attaining note as one of California's valuable products. Its scientific name is *Grindelia robusta*. J. W. Thompson, of College City, Cal., recently shipped 75 bales of 250 lbs. each to an Eastern patent-medicine firm to be manufactured into cough-medicine. Tarweed has hitherto been considered a great nuisance by farmers.

Permit us to inform your readers that we introduced *Grindelia robusta* to the profession many years ago, and have ever since marketed a fluid extract; also a fluid-extract co., a pill, an elixir, and glycerole yerbine co. containing it.

Very truly yours,

111 Queen Victoria Street, E.C., PARKE, DAVIS & Co.
October 28.

Oil-of-Lemon Aldehydes.

SIR,—In your issue of October 12 there is a notice of our treatise, "Über Neue Citronaldehyde," recently published in the "Berichte" (1901, page 2809). In this notice, Burgess's discovery and ours of a new aldehyde in oil of lemon are so brought together as to give the impression that it was not till after we had become acquainted with Burgess's work, and with the help of his results, that we completed or even commenced our investigations in the same field. This is not the case. We had completely finished our observations on June 21, and Burgess's work first came to our knowledge on July 13 through the *Chemiker Zeitung*, No. 56. The original treatise in the "Proceedings of the Chemical Society" we read later. We can furnish proof that at our suggestion Messrs. Heine & Co. informed their patent agent of the discovery of octyl- and nonyl-aldehydes in oil of lemon. The publication of Burgess's work did not, therefore, induce us to make further investigations, but to make an early pre-

liminary publication of our own discovery. The priority of the discovery of a new aldehyde differing from citral belongs to Mr. Burgess; the priority of the discovery of octyl- and nonyl-aldehydes belongs, however, exclusively to us. The reason of our work not being published until about seven weeks later (which, perhaps, led your reporter to the supposition that we had taken up the subject treated by Burgess after him) is that the *Berichte* dated July 20 was not published until September 28. We also desire to call attention to the last sentence in your article, where it is said:—

They also consider that the fluorescent compound observed in the higher boiling fractions of the oxygenated constituents of the oil may be methylanthranilate, discovered in oil of lemon by Mr. E. J. Parry (*C. & D.*, June 16, 1900, page 993), the existence of which in lemon oil was said by Schimmel & Co. to be "improbable," but is now confirmed by Heine & Co.'s chemists.

We have made no examination into the nature of the fluorescent substance, but have only expressed a supposition in regard to it.

Yours faithfully,

DR. H. VON SODEN.

F. ROJAHN.

Leipzig.

Face Prices and Fair Profit.

SIR,—The question of extreme cutting has been so ventilated through the columns of your journal that there might seem little more to say on the matter, yet when I find a drug-store not far from me offering Scott's emulsion at 9½d., 1s. 6½d., and 2s. 11½d per bottle, it certainly seems time that we chemists should take some definite action, or else stand aside, to see our trade drift into other channels. The question is, What can we do? and this I venture to say is answered by another. Has not the training and education necessary for us to enter this business (unless we make ourselves a limited company) qualified us for something higher than to be the *depôt* of every nostrum, many of which are introduced by persons who have no real knowledge of medicine or therapeutics? Let the drug-stores, grocers, oilmen, and general hucksters have the ordinary quack remedies, and, in wishing them farewell, we can leave them to a happy, if a short, life; then let our action be to wean the public from the belief in all the pretty little garbled tales we so often see in print, and gradually instruct them in the truth that a chemist is after all not incapable of making an efficient aperient-pill or a bottle of cod-liver oil emulsion. We are not called to work only from self-interest, and, unless we can obtain the confidence of the public, we had better put up our shutters and turn our attention to some more worthy object.

Yours faithfully,

Dulwich, October 29.

T. E. RUBBERA.

SIR,—As you have initiated a discussion on the profit on proprietary articles, may we venture to point out to Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., through your columns, that the ordinary retail chemist makes a better profit retailing Pears' soap than selling their articles at list-prices? No chemist thinks of quoting their goods at more than their ordinary list-figures, and he is allowed a discount of 15 per cent., less carriage, to serve as his profit. Now by a recent arrangement Messrs. Pears pay carriage and allow a discount of 20 per cent. Hence their soap becomes a much more profitable article to handle than tableoids, and there is no need to have a qualified person to retail it. Again, Messrs. Oppenheimer's specialities must frequently be retailed at a list-price which leaves the retailer a profit of 7½ per cent., even though he buys direct. Is this calculated to promote good feeling? We know that a journal like yours is naturally adverse to publishing statements that might serve to reflect on large advertisers; but surely it is wiser to let discontent find expression, that it may be alleviated, rather than try to suppress it, and so cause it to find expression otherwise.

Yours truly,

Dublin, October 28.

J. LEONARD & Co.

Chemist (48/16) writes in the same strain as Messrs. Leonard & Co., but with special reference to the "Pirates" advertisement in last week's issue, to which he replies that the profits on tablets are so much better than the profits on tableoids that "the retailer cannot be blamed for selling the former whenever he has the opportunity."

Mr. Morgan James's Boycott Scheme.

SIR,—The weakness of Mr James's scheme is shown by a few words towards the end of his letter. He admits that all chemists in a town must be of one mind. Can he point out a single town of a fair size where such a state of affairs exists? No, sir, neither this scheme nor the P.A.T.A. (of which I am a member) will bring proprietors to their senses. The chemist individually must work to this end. Let him cut down all proprietaries to actual cost, and then push a good line of preparations of his own, and that on the lines the cutters have kindly shown us. Madame Duval's hair-restorer sounds so much better than, and shows disinterestedness as compared with, Jones's hair-restorer. If 50 per cent. of the chemists of the country would rouse themselves out of their state of torpor and adopt the above *modus operandi*, cut patents as we know them to-day would be *non sunt* in a couple of years. It is somewhat painful to have to say it, but the chemists of the past twenty years are largely responsible for the present state of affairs. Had they been alert and not so ultra-conservative, the present Pharmacy Bill would hardly have been necessary. We should not need to be coddled like so many spoilt children. Ever-varying conditions require ever-varying methods, and this they failed, and, I am afraid, still fail, to recognise. Recently, being temporarily out of a well-known proprietary soap, I went into two chemists in main thoroughfares of a town of over a quarter-million inhabitants, and "neither of them had a single tablet"; "We don't stock," &c., was what they said. Is this the way to stay the incursions of the up-to-date cutter? I wot not. "Am I my brother's keeper?" No; but I personally should like to see brother chemist doing more of the trade which justly belongs to him as a duly qualified chemist and druggist of Great Britain.

Yours faithfully,

MUTARIAN. (45/62.)

October 26.

Mr. Morgan W. James, of Llanely, again writes to us on this subject stating what he will do with the postcards which he may receive in support of his scheme. He suggests that Chemists' County Trade Associations should be formed in every county town through the initiative of the local secretaries of the Pharmaceutical Society and the postcards will be handed over to the secretaries to be dealt with.

The Liverpool Meeting.

A correspondent, writing with reference to "Xrayser's" remarks as to the attendance at the Conference of the Pharmaceutical Society at Liverpool, says:—"The place of meeting was the Royal Institute, Liverpool. The large hall was engaged, and a big muster anticipated, as over eight hundred invitations had been issued, and under twenty replies of inability to attend were received. At the hour for the commencement of the proceedings six awaited the advent of the officials and local secretaries, who were holding an earlier meeting in another part of the building. After the commencement of the proceedings a few others straggled in, certainly not more than a dozen. There also arrived in a body (amid applause) what appeared, from age, &c., to be students from a local college, who numbered perhaps a score, and who voted in favour of the Bill. At no time was there more than between fifty and sixty (including the platform) present, and the meeting was anything but representative of the bulk of the chemists of Liverpool, and, in spite of what was said at the meeting, much disappointment was felt at the very small attendance."

SIR,—Regarding the Conference meeting in Liverpool, on which "Xrayser" commented in your last issue, the truth is this: the meeting was very badly attended by the chemists of the district, and had it not been that the students from the local school mustered in strong force the benches would have been but sparsely occupied. The Liverpool chemists appear to feel strongly that the Society is governed by the office, where they work to a set of by-laws as a mechanician works to a series of patterns, and that however capable a councillor may be, and they recognise that many are, any initiative is killed in this way, so that if a councillor has to learn his business by careful tuition at the Square, as it appears that Mr. Lord Gifford is now doing, it is scarcely worth their while to go to a meeting to hear office-echoes. At this meeting, certainly, Mr. Young had the temerity to

object to be heckled for office shortcomings, which unquestionably was an interesting variation from the usual proceedings at these meetings, and it would be well if other councillors assumed a like independent position.

I was present on Saturday last at the opening of the local technological institution by the Duke of Devonshire, and I was struck by the ingenuity expressed by a prominent member of the Government in blaming the lack of initiative on the part of middle-class people for the prevailing condition of secondary education in this country, and I was forcibly reminded of what Bloomsbury Square has been drumming into us for many years—viz., "Tell us what you want, that we may endeavour to obtain it for you." When the chemists have exerted themselves so far as to point out a policy, they have constructed a draft Bill that every member of the Council knows is absurd, and this they are still prepared to nurse and to exhibit for some time, which is the object, I take it, of these local conferences. Many local men have gone so far as to definitely state that it was a mistake to have the working of the Pharmacy Act placed in the hands of the Pharmaceutical Society; that if it had been delegated to the police it would only have brought home much earlier to pharmacists the folly of leaving branch-shops in the hands of unqualified men; that up to the time of the Wheeldon case, and then only under compulsion, the Society was afraid to institute proceedings against unqualified managers and sellers of poisons for fear of creating enemies among their own subscribers, and that this to a great extent had accounted for the competition on the part of unqualified traders at present experienced.

The Duke of Devonshire said at the meeting referred to that the Government vessel was waiting for the breeze, the initiative for the people for secondary education. The Bishop of Liverpool, in reply, suggested that the Government should put on a steamer instead of a sailing-vessel, and give the lead themselves. I think this advice might be given with advantage to the councillors of the Pharmaceutical Society. This want of lead and lethargy on their part during the past has resulted in indifference to matters pharmaceutical, as illustrated in the Liverpool meeting, and many chemists in this district honestly believe that nothing short of a complete revolution will disturb the oligarchy at Bloomsbury Square which rule our destinies.

Yours truly,

MERSIANA. (46/90.)

Sale of Poisons by Auction.

SIR—"Buyer of the Poisons," as you note, is in a condition of confusion in regard to the provisions of the Pharmacy Acts, and falls into several errors. He speaks of "the fact of an auctioneer disposing of poisons to an assembly of retail chemists." The report to which I referred says "the auctioneer appealed to chemists, shopkeepers, and others to buy," and a lady, an ironmonger, and a broker are specially mentioned as purchasers. It is evident that the auction was a free, general sale in an open shop to any purchaser, and therefore strictly of the nature of a sale by retail. All auction sales are of a retail nature, unless specially restricted by the conditions of sale to retail dealers—as, for instance, in certain fish, fruit, and meat sales—when the rule is made that only bids from retailers will be accepted. His statement that wholesale transactions are outside the regulations of the Pharmacy Acts is not accurate. The Act says "it shall be unlawful to sell any poison, either by wholesale or retail," unless certain regulations are complied with. You also rightly point out that the Act defines "wholesale" transactions. "Sales by wholesale to retail dealers" are exempt. Who is a retail dealer in poisons? Surely, only such as are registered under the Act; and an auctioneer, unless he be a registered chemist, does not come within this category. An auctioneer's licence, it may be thought, gives him the right to sell anything and everything, but it cannot go behind an Act of Parliament. He cannot, on the strength of his licence, sell excisable liquors without possessing the licence as a dealer in spirits. No more, do I think, can he legally sell scheduled poisons. I am glad to know that Mr. Brembridge was not present, but would have expected that even a local secretary—a registered man—would have entered a protest. Is it not the case that the Council some time back said that they expected divisional secretaries to report infringements of

the Pharmacy Acts occurring in their districts? The fact that anyone at this sale could have purchased, for a few pence, fifty-two poisons (including strychnine, morphine, potassium cyanide, and hydrocyanic acid) is such a grave public danger—the very evil the Act was intended to strike at—the unrestricted distribution of dangerous poisons. I still think that a protest should have been made by the chemists present, and, if such proved futile, I would be even more

ASTOUNDED. (49/10.)

Legal Queries.

Before sending in a query for reply in this section see if the subject is not dealt with in "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1900, pages 212-226, and pages 259-262.

39/7. *Galen*.—We take it that the trade-mark of the disinfecting-powder is not registered in the medicine class, and if not your registration of a similar title for a medicine in the medicine class is not likely to be successfully opposed. We cannot, of course, say whether opposition would be taken or not.

38/52. *Pall Mall* puts this question: "A. was an assistant with B. on usual terms. A. fell ill. B. told him to go home to be nursed. When A. got home the doctor said his illness would last two or three months, so A. sent B. a month's notice to leave. Is B. liable for a month's money?" [Yes.]

39/64. *Hamlet Court*.—The fact that the Board of Inland Revenue has permitted methylated spirit to be used in the manufacture of soap liniment is too generally construed into complete authority to sell such liniment. The Board of Inland Revenue does not object to the sale, but it has no authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, so that when retailers sell methylated soap liniment they should be careful to label it "Methylated," and explain the fact to customers. However, few ever ask for soap liniment, but for opodeldoc, and there is no need for an explanation in the latter case.

40/23. *W. S.*—The Welsbach Company have patent-rights, and if you are using mantles which are an infringement thereof they can stop such use. They do not seek to compel you to use their mantles but to desist from further infringement of their patent-rights. It is for you to assure yourself that the mantles which you use are made under a valid patent.

45/35. *W. D.*—Geographical names are not registered as trade-marks

44/24. *D. J. T.*—It is legal to sell chemicals for the manufacture of fireworks, but illegal to mix them without a licence.

45/25. *R. H.*—You omit the most important fact in the statement as to A's purchase of B's gas-fittings—viz., conditions of the purchase. We presume, however, that on B vacating the house he was to leave certain fittings, for which A was to pay him 5*l.* On entering the house A finds part of the fittings broken. He can deduct for this part or recover, especially if he can prove that B's agent (the carrier) broke it. It is not clear, owing to your incomplete statement, that the fittings were broken while they were in B's possession; but if so, B should rely on his agent's conduct.

47/19. *W. A. H.*—If the lozenges contain chlorodyne, they cannot be sold by any other than registered chemists and druggists.

46/73. *Ung.*—You will find the official list of poisons in our issue of June 30, 1901.

47/39. *Retailer*.—It is not necessary to label imported honey "Foreign," but it must not be called "English."

46/23. *M. P. S.*—The use of a trade-mark in association with the name of a remedy for an ailment renders it liable to stamp-duty. Your label is on the border-line, and we think you should send a sample of the article, with two labels, to the Board of Inland Revenue for their opinion.

48/9. *Representative* (Ireland) puts the following questions: "Can I as representative of next-of-kin appoint a manager to take over the business of a deceased pharmaceutical chemist?" [Only as executor, administrator, or trustee. The business must remain in trust for the benefit of the heir or heirs.] "Can such manager employ an apprentice whose apprenticeship will be recognised by the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland?" [Yes.] "If the business were to pass into the hands of a limited company, would the manager (an L.P.S.I.) have power to train apprentices with the approval of the P.S.I.?" [The manager's apprentice would be admitted to the examination, but not the company's.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

26/50. *Ionone*.—Dyeing Billiard-balls.—Your failure with aniline dyes is perhaps due to the fact that you had not freed the balls from all trace of grease. The method is given in detail in "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 415.

25/68. *A. J.*—Pig-powders:—

Black antimony	...	...	4 oz.
Black sulphur	...	...	6 oz.
Oxide of iron	...	...	2 oz.
Powdered liquorice	...	...	8 oz.
Powdered fenugreek	...	...	8 oz.

Mix well and weigh into $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. packets. The daily dose is the contents of one packet.

32/39. *Rehlan* writes that a customer of his, a dog-fancier asks what is given to bitches to bring them in season, the idea being to have pups ready by a certain time for show-purposes. There are all sorts of theories and "exuberant fancies" among dog-breeders as to this matter, but the physiology of the thing was long since settled by nature. In your business capacity you must be aware of the drugs employed for excitation of the generative organs, and it is to these the fancier resorts. He sometimes establishes a uterine excitement simulating oestrus, and attractive to the other sex, but it is doubtful if conception and fruition at full time has ever resulted from such artificial means.

40/26. *Glycerin*.—You will find all information regarding the formation of limited companies in THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY.

30/51. *E. D.*—Sea-salt.—The following analysis of the water of the English Channel will enable you to devise a formula for artificial sea-salt:—

Sodium chloride	...	...	27.059 gr.
Potassium chloride	...	...	0.7665 gr.
Magnesium chloride	...	...	3.667 gr.
Magnesium bromide	...	...	0.029 gr.
Magnesium sulphate	...	...	2.296 gr.
Calcium sulphate	...	...	1.407 gr.
Calcium carbonate	...	...	0.033 gr.
Water	...	...	964.744 gr.

The proportion of salt in sea-water is greater at a distance from land.

21/35. *Radix*.—A General Veterinary Lotion for cracked hoofs, sore backs, shoulders, and wounds, is made by dissolving $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. each of zinc sulphate and lead acetate in a pint of water suitably coloured. For cuts and wounds the lotion should be directed to be diluted.

25/69. *E. H. R.*—Nursery Hair-lotion.—From your description we should say the lotion you refer to was made from a similar formula to that published in the *C. & D.*, March 23, 1901, page 494. That recipe yields an effectual lotion.

21/50. *Jean*.—Liquid Sulphur for vapour-baths. See *C. & D.*, January 5, 1901, page 32 (under the name liq. calcis hydrosulph.), or November 17, 1900, page 810.

27/63. *Jumbo*.—Quinine Pessaries are made with quininæ hydrochloridum B.P., the dosage of quinine for leucorrhœa being from 3 to 5 gr.

22/29. *W. J. D.*—(1) Your first query was replied to in the *C. & D.*, October 12, p. 623. (2) A solution of caustic soda is best for removing paint from cement.

26/52. *Soapy*.—Books on Soap-making.—Will you please refer to *C. & D.*, March 23, 1901, page 494, and April 20, 1901, page 630? We cannot repeat the information at present.

31/40. *Herring*.—Essence of Herring for rheumatism is solution of trimethylamine. The solution acts as an irritant when locally applied, and was proposed some fifty years ago as a specific for rheumatism when given internally. The dose is 20 to 60 minims of the 20-per-cent. solution, well diluted, every two or three hours.

30/37. *J. W. C.*—Clearing Peppermint-cordial.—If you shake the cordial with a small proportion of kaolin or kieselguhr, and allow it to settle, there will be no necessity to filter.

16/54. *W. S.*—Rendering Cotton-belted Non-inflammable.—This should be saturated with sodium tungstate, but in the case of the sample you send it would best be done, owing to its close texture, during manufacture.

20/17. *Francisco* (Barcelona).—Hydraulic Cement.—The property of setting under water which some cements possess is due to the use of a natural product, such as argillaceous limestone, or is artificially brought about by burning a mixture of chalk or "fat" lime with clay. The silicates are contained in the clay, and are not introduced as silicate of potash or soda. We may mention, however, that Laudrin applies the term "hydraulic silica" to silica precipitated from potassium silicate and afterwards well washed and ignited at a dull-red heat. This, when mixed with lime, sets under water.

10/13. *W. H. H.*—Black for Lantern-slides.—Photographic black varnish (for formula see DIARY) is often used for blackening lantern-slides, but the best way in our experience is to thinly coat the glass with wax (by rubbing a piece of wax on a hot slide), and then smoke it with burning camphor. Finer lines can be drawn on such a prepared slide (using a needle) than when black varnish is used.

43/42. *Korn Kure*; 41/46, *Boonie*.—We require some information about samples submitted to us for analysis, so that we can judge whether the analysis would be of general interest.

44/25. *W. G. B.*—If you have any ideas on the subject, send them in to us, and we shall pay for them if used.

40/9. *E. E. M.*—Dried egg-albumin is soluble in water, but does not dissolve freely; it dissolves easily, however, if the water contains an alkaline salt. The latter method may suit your purpose.

14/42. *Emulsion*.—We cannot suggest a suitable cheap preparation for imitating cod-liver-oil emulsion for window-dummies. Better show wrapped dummies.

Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

- 41/53. What is volasem?
 43/13. Makers of creol or kreol.
 43/27. Makers of the tubular sanitary towel.
 43/66. Makers of Liebig's wine of phosphates.
 47/48. Makers of tin clips for mounting soothers.
 45/24. Makers of 1*d* camera and 1*d*. packets of sensitised paper.

Coming Events.

Notices of forthcoming meetings are inserted in this section free of charge. Secretaries should send such notices to the Editor of "The Chemist and Druggist," 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., so that they may be received not later than Wednesday of the week of publication; if later, by telegram to "Chemicus London."

Monday, November 4.

Society of Chemical Industry (London Section), Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8 P.M. Professor W. Ramsay, F.R.S., on "The Rapid and Approximate Estimation of Free Oxygen in Sewage Effluents and Waters"; Mr. Watson Smith on "Phthalic Glyceride," and Mr. A. J. Smith, "Notes on the Manufacture of Varnish by the Pressure Process."

Tuesday, November 5.

Bradford and District Chemists' Association. Lantern-lecture by Mr. T. H. Wardleworth, on "Jamaica, the Isle of Spring."

Wednesday, November 6

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 16 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 11 A.M. Council-meeting.
Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 P.M. First meeting of new Council.

Thursday, November 7.

The Röntgen Society, 20 Hanover Square, W., at 8.30 P.M. Mr. Herbert Jackson will deliver the Presidential Address.
Chemical Society, Burlington House, W., at 8 P.M. The following papers will be read:—"Note on the Non-existence of a Higher Oxide of Hydrogen than the Di-oxide," by Professor W. Ramsay, F.R.S.; "The Electrolytic Reduction of Nitroures," by Mr. G. W. F. Holroyd; "The Constitution of Pilocarpine III" and "A New Synthesis of α ethyl Tricarballic Acid," by Dr. H. A. D. Jovett; "The Action of Nitric Acid on Methyl Dimethylacetate," by Professor W. H. Perkin, F.R.S.; "An Incrustation from the Stone Gallery of St. Paul's Cathedral" and "Note on Asbestos," by Mr. E. G. Clayton; "Liquid Nitrogen Peroxide as a Solvent," by Professor P. F. Frankland, F.R.S., and Mr. R. C. Farmer.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 73 Newman Street, Oxford Street, W., at 9 P.M. Mr. A. H. Ware on "The Natural History of Insectivorous Plants."

Friday, November 8.

Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co.'s Cricket Club. Sixth annual smoking-concert at the Holborn Town Hall, at 7.45 P.M. Tickets, price 1s. each, may be obtained from the Secretary Mr. E. King, 12 and 16 Coleman Street, E.C.

THE opening evening-meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (North British Branch) has been arranged for November 20 at 36 York Place, Edinburgh. Dr. Leonard Dobbin is to give an address on "Some Aspects of Education and Examination in Relation to the Future of Pharmacy."

THE BRITISH OPTICAL ASSOCIATION will hold an examination in Manchester at the Royal Technical Institute, Salford, on November 27. Intending candidates should apply to the Secretary, 17 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W., for application forms.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL DINNER of the past and present students of the Metropolitan College of Pharmacy, 160 and 162 Kennington Park Road, S.E., is to be held at the Holborn Restaurant, W.C., on Saturday, November 23. Mr. A. C. Wootton, member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society, will preside, and distribute the silver and bronze medals and certificates gained by the students during the past session.

MR. J. DOWLING ALLMAN, M.P.S. (representative of a firm of wholesale chemists, London), writes from the Star Hotel, Great Yarmouth, to the *Daily News* about "Income-tax tyranny." The Surveyor has demanded from him 40*l.*, on a salary rating of 700*l.* a year, after Mr. Allman had made a full and truthful return of his yearly salary. A peremptory demand by the Surveyor for Mr. Allman's attendance in London is the basis of his protest.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: October 31.

FLUCTUATIONS in values are fairly numerous this week, and among the more important is a reduction in borax and boric acid. The principal English camphor-refiners have lowered their prices by 2*d.* per lb. in order to counteract German competition. Crude camphor, on the other hand, has advanced quite 5*s.*, so that the present reduction would appear to be temporary only. Sulphonal is still being "cut," and lower prices again prevail. Saffron of new crop is in fair demand, and present prices are low. Japanese wax is getting scarce, and values tend upwards. Quinine is quiet, with an easier tendency. Senega is likely to go still higher. In essential and fixed oils, American HGH and Japanese oils are unaltered, but oil of star-anise has a firmer tendency on the spot. Almond oil is again lower, cod-liver oil is firmer, and palm oil is easier. The following table shows the principal changes of the week:—

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Camphor (crude)	Oil, cod-liver	Acid, tartaric	Acid, boric
Gambier	Oil, anise, star	Oil, palm	Borax
Ginger	Wax, Japan	Opium	Camphor (Eng. ref.)
Lycopodium		Copper sulphate	Oil, almond (B.P.)
Quinine-salts		Potash chlorate	Saffron
Shellac		Quinine (sec. hands)	Sulphonal
			Vanilla

Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c, have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom from October 21 to 30, both inclusive:—Arrowroot (St. V.), 660; asafetida (@ Lingah), 92 cs.; hay oil (W.I.), 2; huchu, 24; button lac (@ Calcutta), 820 chests; shellac, 183; calumba (@ Bombay), 768; cardamoms, 28; chamomiles, 81; cinchona (@ Mollendo) 155 bales, (E.I.), 13; cocaine, crude (@ Callao), 11; cocoa butter (@ Amsterdam), 20 cs.; cod-liver oil (@ Christiania) 30, (@ Aalesund) 282, (@ Bergen) 107; cubebs, 4; dragon's-blood (@ Penang), 5; drugs (@ Cartagena), 32 pkgs.; ergot (@ Hamburg), 9; essential oils (@ N. York), 32; eucalyptus oil (@ Bremen), 16 cs.; galbanum, 11; galls (Persian), 264; ginger (@ Hong Kong), 250; gentian-powder, 20; gum arabic (@ Aden), 29; gum sandarac, 13; gum, unenumerated (Persian), 1,316 pkgs.; gum tragacanth, 427 pkgs.; honey (@ Sydney) 60, (Jam.) 4; kola, 10; lime-juice (at Jamaica) 39 brls., (@ Dominica) 133 brls., (@ Halifax) 150 pns.; lime oil (@ Dominica), 8; liquorice, 434 cs.; opium (@ Smyrna) 34, (@ Persia) 58, (@ Constantinople) 59, (@ Hong-Kong) 48; peppermint oil (@ New York), 13; pimento (@ Jamaica), 2,190 bags; quinine (@ Amsterdam), 5 cs.; rhubarb (@ Shanghai), 92 cs.; roots (@ Hamburg), 20; sandalwood (@ Sydney), 262 pcs.; senna (@ Bombay), 406; soda bicarbonate (@ New York), 700 kegs; spermaceti (@ N.Y.), 10 cs.; sulphur (@ Spain), 510 tons; sponges (@ Marseilles), 247 pkgs.; turmeric (@ Calcutta), 250; wax, bees' (@ Calcutta) 14, (@ Aden) 110 hdl. 17 bags, (@ Marseilles) 23; wax, unenumerated (@ Hamburg), 12 cs.

Heavy Chemicals.

General business in the heavy-chemical market at all the principal centres continues without material change. Export business is now declining, but this is quite to be expected at this period. A fairly active all-round demand is being experienced in the

home-trade department, and consumers, although still somewhat slow, are certainly showing a better disposition to cover their next year's requirements. Values are for the most part steadily maintained without changes.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder is still in active request, and supply is not too abundant. Price continues firm at 6*l.* 15*s.* to 7*l.* per ton for soft-wood casks, free on rails; f.o.b. Liverpool or Tyne, 7*l.* to 7*l.* 5*s.* per ton. Caustic soda, although in fair demand, is perhaps a shade easier; still, there appears little likelihood of any appreciable decline in values from the following: 76 to 77 per cent., 11*l.* to 11*l.* 5*s.* per ton; 70 per cent., 10*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 10*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton; and 60 per cent., 9*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 9*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per ton. Ammonia alkali, 58 per cent., in brisk request, and firm at 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per ton, in hags, free on rails. Figure for next year is 4*l.* 5*s.* per ton. Salteake maintains a firm tone, and is in demand at 28*s.* to 29*s.* per ton, in bulk, free on rails; for prompt and forward delivery, 30*s.* per ton. Soda crystals have been moving fairly well of late, at unchanged rates of 62*s.* 6*d.* to 65*s.* per ton, f.o.b. Tyne, and 67*s.* 6*d.* per ton, f.o.h. Liverpool. Bicarbonate of soda steadily maintains its position, with fair inquiry, 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton, in 5-cwt casks, and 6*l.* 15*s.* to 7*l.* per ton, in 1-cwt. kegs, f.o.b. Liverpool. Sulphate of soda (Glauber's salts) without change, at 30*s.* to 32*s.* 6*d.* per ton, free on rails in hags. Hyposulphite of soda still keeps very low in values, and demand is only moderate, 6*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 15*s.* per ton, in large casks, and 7*l.* to 7*l.* 10*s.* per ton, in 1-cwt. kegs. Yellow prussiate of potash and soda have a firmer tone for prompt. Nominal figures for best Lancashire make: potash, 5½*d.* to 5½*d.* per lb.; soda, 4½*d.* to 4½*d.* per lb. Chlorates of potash and soda show a further decline, and have no apparent tendency towards recovery. Prices are respectively 2½*d.* to 3*d.* per lb., and 3*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb. Silicates of soda continue to move well, and show no change in values: 140° Tw., 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per ton; 100° Tw., 3*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton; and 75° Tw., 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 15*s.* per ton, f.o.b. Tyne or Liverpool, according to quantity, and in ordinary casks.

Liverpool Drug Market.

Liverpool, October 30.

CASTOR OIL.—The stocks of good seconds Calcutta on the spot are gradually being brought into very narrow compass, and the price remains firm at 3½*d.* per lb. Forward business is very limited in proportion, but sellers show no disposition to meet the views of buyers in this position. English and French first pressure are still selling at 3½*d.* to 3¾*d.*, but the amount of business is very small. Second-pressure English and French continues to find buyers at 3*d.* to 3¼*d.*, the latter price being paid for few barrel lots.

IRISH MOSS.—Sales of the new continue to be made at 7*l.* to 8*l.* per ton for common quality.

CALABAR BEANS.—The sale is reported of a small parcel, about 2 cwt., at 10*d.* per lb.

ACACIA SORTS.—While the advance of the past few weeks is fully maintained, sales are of very limited proportions. Several lots to be offered at auction shortly, are "limited" at full prices.

QUILLAIA.—Holders continue to exhibit a very firm attitude, and quote 12*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 13*l.* per ton.

AFRICAN GINGER.—In sympathy with other gingers this is very firmly held, and 40*s.* to 45*s.* per cwt. is asked for the small quantity available.

TURPS is easier for the week at 27*s.* 9*d.* to 28*s.* per cwt. **CANARY-SEED.**—Owing to arrivals this has again dropped to the old figure of 33*s.* to 33*s.* 6*d.* per qr. for good bright Turkish.

HONEY.—The sale of 30 barrels low-grade Peruvian is reported at 17*s.* per cwt. A recent arrival of Jamaican is held for 21*s.* per cwt. Californian and Chilian unchanged in values.

GAMBIER.—Very firm, at 35*s.* to 35*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for good free cubes.

SCAMMONY-ROOT is firmly held by importers at 27*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* per cwt.

BEE-SWAX.—For a parcel of Chilian at auction no bids were forthcoming. Holders said that their idea of value was 7*l.* to 7*l.* 5*s.* A small parcel of mixed Peruvian is held at 6*l.* 15*s.* per cwt.

LINSEED OIL.—Holders of Liverpool makes in export-casks are asking an advance of 6*d.* per cwt., present prices being 33*s.* 6*d.* to 34*s.* per cwt., according to quantity.

German Drug Market.

Hamburg, October 29.

There is very little of interest to be reported from our drug-market this week. The position of most articles remains about the same as last week, and values are mostly unaltered.

AGAR-AGAR is firm and dearer at 385*m.* per 100 kilos.

ANTIMONY is quieter at 28*m.* to 27½*m.* per 100 kilos.

CITRIC ACID for forward delivery is rather firmer at 235*m.*, and 240*m.* per 100 kilos. on the spot.

CONDURANGO-BARK is more freely offered, and tending lower at 65m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (REFINED) does not show much business. From secondhands 427½m. per 100 kilos. has been paid.

CANTHARIDES is firm at 515m. per 100 kilos. for Russian.

CEVADILLA SEED shows a better tone at 80m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT keeps firm, Spanish being held at 375m., and Russian at 350m. per 100 kilos.

IPECACUANHA is also firm at 24½m. for Rio, and 14½m. per kilo. for Cartagena.

LYCOPodium remains firm also, holders asking 450m. per 100 kilos., an spot is scarce.

MENTHOL.—Spot delivery is firm at 32m. per kiln., hut forward delivery is rather easier at 27½m. per kilo. for November-December shipment.

QUININE has been raised by the factories, and 41m. per kilo. is now asked.

QUILLAIMA is quiet at 27½m. per 100 kilos.

STAR-ANISE is unchanged at 127½m. per 100 kilos.

JAPANESE WAX.—Arrivals coming in, prompt delivery is held for 69m. and 68m., and forward at 67m. per 100 kilos.

CASTOR OIL.—Spot is firm hut quiet at 57m. for first-pressing in barrels, and 55m. per 100 kilos. for forward delivery.

COD-LIVER OIL is dull of sale at 61m. per barrel for non-congealing oil.

LINSEED OIL is tending firmer, hut demand is limited.

ESSENTIAL OILS are practically unchanged since last week.

American Drug Market.

New York, October 22.

A very fair business is being transacted, mainly along jobbing lines, and the market has a steady tone.

BUCHU is easier, in sympathy with London, and quotations show a decline to 24c. per lb. for spot.

CAFFEINE has declined to \$3.75, a drop of 50c. per lb.

GOLDEN-SEAL (*Hydrastis*) is a trifle firmer, but 54c. will still buy.

JALAP is quiet at 12½c. to 13c. per lb.

IPECAC.—Supplies of all kinds are light, and values are firm at \$2.70 for Rio and \$1.70 per lb. for Cartagena.

MENTHOL is higher, \$4.25 being now the inside figure for spot goods.

PEPPERMINT OIL maintains its position. Little hulk oil is obtainable helow \$1.70, and HGH is quoted at \$1.90. Very little is held in the growing districts.

SENEGA is quiet hut strong, and very little is offering helow 60c. The chances are still against fresh supplies being dug. Small amounts are available on the spot at 57c. per lb.

THYMOL is quiet at \$2.95 per lb., but the market has an upward tendency.

QUININE.—Java is selling at 27c. per oz., and German at 27½c. from second hands. Demand has improved, and the market is firmer. Manufacturers continue to quote on a basis of 28c.

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, Thursday, 9.45 A.M.: The sales of opium for the week ending Wednesday amount to 100 cases for American shipment and 40 cases on Holland account. An advance in the price of the richer grades is anticipated.

* * * * *

NEW YORK, October 31, 3 P.M.:—The business tone here is good. Opium is easy at \$3.10 per lb. Quinine is firm at 29c. per oz., and refined camphor is easier at 56c. Buchu-leaves are quiet at 23c., and golden-seal root (*Hydrastis*) is easier at 52c. Cannabis indica is strong, 65c. being wanted for tops. Aleppo tragacanth is scarce and wanted.

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HAMBURG, October 31, 4.30 P.M.:—Refined borax and boric acid have been reduced 4m. For agar-agar 400m. has been paid, being dearer. Lycopodium, ergot, and refined camphor are firm.

London Markets.

ACID, CITRIC.—A firmer tone is apparent at from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 1¾d. per lb. for English crystals, according to quantity and make.

ACID, OXALIC.—It is reported that a large oxalic-acid factory will be built at Sheboygan, Michigan. The raw material to be used is sawdust, which can be had cheaply in the neighbouring lumber regions. The venture is said to be the first of its kind in the United States.

ACID, TARTARIC.—The price of English crystals or powder is now 11¾d. per lb. on the spot; and foreign, 11d.

ACIDS.—The following quotations are for B.P. quality in quantity:—Sulphuric, 21s per cwt.; nitric (1.420), 25s. 9d.; hydrochloric (1.160), 16s. 6d.; sulphurous, 4s. per cwt.

ANISEED.—The Chinese crop of star-aniseed, although about 25 per cent. smaller than last year's, promises to be a full average one (according to a Hong-Kong report of September 27), in spite of which Chinese sellers are very reluctant. Native speculators have bought at the parity of 60s. per cwt.

ARROWROOT.—St. Vincent has sold in fair quantity at 2¾d. to 3½d. per lb. for fine, and 1¾d. to 1¾d. for medium to good. Nothing was offered in auction.

ARSENIC is steady at from 16l. 10s. to 17l. per ton for best white English powder.

ASAFTIDA.—A small business in low grades is reported at 20s. per cwt.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Good quality is practically unobtainable from abroad, and buyers here would be willing to pay 40s., c.i.f., for it. Grades of low alkaloidal content are plentiful, and can be had at 30s.

BORAX has been reduced 2s. per cwt., crystals now being quoted 13s., and powder 14s. in contract quantities. Boric acid has also been reduced to 22s. for crystals and 24s. for powder.

BUCHU.—Since the auctions further sales of round leaf have been made at 11½d. per lb.

CALUMBA.—According to the Bill of Entry the s.s. *Egypt* from Bombay has arrived with 768 bales.

CAMPHOR.—English refiners have lowered their quotations by 2d. per lb., and now quote bells and flowers at 2s. 1½d., with a reduction of ½d. for half-ton lots. Tablets are quoted at proportionately higher rates. The present substantial reduction is intended to crush the competition of holders of German refined camphor, whose circulars quoting low prices have lately been somewhat prevalent in London. It is said that one of the English refiners who is not in the Convention will do his best to maintain prices. The market for crude camphor is 5s. dearer, Formosan crude being now quoted 166s. 6d. to 167s. 6d. per cwt, c.i.f., and Japanese crude, 172s. 6d. c.i.f.; for pressed 180s., c.i.f., has been paid, and 185s. is asked on the spot.

The exports from Canton and Hong-Kong to the Continent from January 1 to September 27 have been:—

	1901	1899	1898
Boxes ...	11,071	12,647	13,435

CANNABIS INDICA.—The stocks here are gradually being drawn upon, and it is anticipated that prices will shortly advance 3d. per lb. The current quotation for tops is 2s. 3d., and 2s. for sittings.

CANTHARIDES.—Natural Russian flies are quoted 2s. 3½d. per lb., c.i.t., and Chinese at 1s. 10d., c.i.f.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—There has been a good inquiry, and cheap bark offered at 26s. has been practically cleared; for 1899 crop 28s. 6d. spot is now asked.

CHILLIES.—In auction 120 bags Japanese offered, of which 60 sold at 44s. for good bright. Privately 44s. to 45s. has also been paid.

CINCHONA.—Additions to the quantity of bark to be offered at Amsterdam on November 7 now bring the total to 8,980 bales and 325 cases, weighing 816,285 kilos. The stock in first hands now consists of 2,651 packages Government and 12,414 packages private bark, including the quantity to be offered in auction.

CLOVES.—The market is firm with fair sales of Zanzibar for October-December delivery at 4d., January-March at 4½d. to 4¼d., and March-May at 4¼d. to 4¾d. per lb. No Zanzibar or Penang were offered in auction.

COCAINE is very firm and in fair demand. The crude-market is reported to have been cleared in Hamburg, and as the convention is fairly strong, prices may advance when makers have sold sufficient at the quoted price of 20s. 9d.

COPPER SULPHATE.—A combination of the producers of copper sulphate has been formed in the United States, which has been entrusted with the disposal of the surplus pro-

duction, and an attempt is now being made to come to an understanding with British producers, in order that the excessive competition in Europe may be avoided. Meetings have been held in London this week, and it is stated that arrangements were completed on Tuesday with the American makers. It must be remembered, however, that not all the sulphate makers are members of the British ring, so that unless they can be induced to join, the agreement may be unworkable, should the "outsiders" prefer to cut. Spot is easier at 20*l.* 15*s.* per ton for good brands.

ERGOT.—On the spot holders ask 1*s.* 9*d.* per lb. for new Spanish. Russian, of which there is little on offer, is quoted 1*s.* 7½*d.* per lb., c.i.f. Hamburg advices report a very firm market, new sound Spanish being quoted 1*s.* 7½*d.*, and Russian 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb., c.i.f., for prompt shipment from producing countries.

GALLS.—The quotation for the new Japanese crop is 51*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., c.i.f. Holders of plum-shaped Chinese ask 62*s.*, and ordinary Shanghai description 56*s.*, c.i.f. Persian are very firm, holders asking 67*s.* 6*d.* for blue, 60*s.* for green, and 52*s.* 6*d.* for white.

GAMBIER.—For a parcel of cubes, near at hand, 34*s.* 6*d.* was paid last week. There are no supplies on the spot.

GINGER.—In auction 98 barrels Jamaica ginger sold with good competition at an advance 7*s.* since last sale, ordinary to medium dullish selling at 49*s.* 6*d.* to 51*s.* 6*d.*, with one lot at 54*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., 64 cases Cochinchina ginger were bought in at high prices, viz. medium native cut at 70*s.*, and small ditto at 57*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. Privately Jamaica has been in fair demand at the advance. Cochinchina is dearer, a good business having been done at from 44*s.* 6*d.* to 45*s.*, and brown Calicut at 42*s.* per cwt. In Japanese ginger over 50 tons have been sold at 32*s.* to 33*s.* c.i.f. according to position, and for a spot parcel of medium to small plump limes 40*s.* 6*d.* has been paid.

GUINEA-GRAINS are being offered in Liverpool at 52*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., c.i.f. Liverpool.

IPECACUANHA.—Rio is very steady, with small sales at the auction prices—viz., 11*s.* 3*d.* to 11*s.* 4*d.* for fair root. For Cartagena 6*s.* 9*d.* per lb. is still wanted for good clean. It is denied that the parcels of Cartagena root offered in auction last week were rejected by the New York Customs authorities, they being merely shipped *via* New York in transit for London. Certainly the impression was prevalent last week that the parcels in question had been shipped from Hamburg to New York, and afterwards rejected.

We have received a letter from the Hamburg firm, from whose circular we quoted a paragraph in our issue of October 19, in respect to the emetine content of ipecacuanha offered by them. They enclose with it the analyst's report on a parcel of Cartagena ipecac., weighing about 650 kilos, in which he declares that he found 3.29 per cent. of crude emetin (*Rohemetin*) and 2.95 per cent. of pure emetin (*Reinemetin*). The analysis is by a sworn chemist, and establishes the *bona fides* of the firm.

LYCOPODIUM is advancing, and from Hamburg 2*s.* 0½*d.* per lb., c.i.f., is now quoted. Stocks are said to be greatly reduced in Russia.

MANNA is now getting scarce, and importers quote 3*s.* per lb., f.o.b. Palermo, for best flake, and lower qualities in proportion.

MENTHOL shows no change, at 15*s.* per lb. spot for Kobayashi crystals. October–November shipment is quoted 13*s.* 6*d.*, c.i.f., and January shipment at the same figure.

OIL, ALMOND.—A further reduction of 1*d.* per lb. has been made by English pressers, who now quote sweet at 1*s.* 3*d.*, and pallid at 1*s.* 5*d.* per lb.

OIL, ANISE-STAR.—The price paid in auction last week—viz., 4*s.* 9*d.* to 4*s.* 10*d.*—is said to be the lowest on record. Some holders are unwilling to sell at current rates, and 5*s.* is now the lowest spot price. C.i.f. is quoted 4*s.* 8½*d.* to 4*s.* 9*d.*

OIL, CASTOR.—Calcutta oil remains very dull, at 3½*d.* per lb. for seconds. Hull make for December delivery is quoted 28*l.* per ton for firsts and 27*l.* for seconds, ex wharf London. Medicinal Italian oil is quoted 36*s.* per cwt., c.i.f., which figure has been paid.

A Calcutta report, dated October 10, states that the market has continued dull with little inquiry, but owing to a temporary short

supply of seed and consequent curtailed production, prices are slightly higher. Crushers are working very cautiously, and are firm at their quotations.

OIL, CITRONELLA.—For small lots in cases 10*d.* per lb. has been paid on the spot.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—It is reported that one London agent has advanced his quotation, and is selling at 63*s.*, f.o.b. From Bergen, under date of October 26, our correspondent writes that there is an improvement in the demand, and the tendency is firmer, sellers of finest Lofoten non-congealing oil now asking 62*s.* per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen. The exports from that port to date amount to 10,972 barrels, against 7,983 barrels at the same time last year.

OIL, PEPPERMINT.—The spot supply of American HGH oil is now very low, and little is obtainable at 8*s.* 6*d.*, which has been paid. Japanese oil is quiet, at 4*s.* spot, for dementholised, and a cable advice quotes 3*s.* 10½*d.* per lb., c.i.f., for November–December shipment from first hands.

OPIMUM.—Holders of Persian on the spot ask 10*s.* 9*d.* to 11*s.* per lb., but buyers' ideas of value are lower, the market being weak. For forward delivery business has been done at 10*s.* 6*d.*, c.i.f., with further sellers.

SMYRNA, October 18.—About 80 cases have been sold this week, a slight decline having induced business, principally for American account. The following are the sales:—Fifty-six cases old new talequale, Karahissar and Yerli, at the parity of 8*s.* 6*d.* per lb.; 11 cases new Bogaditz talequale, at 9*s.* to 9*s.* 2*d.*; 4 cases choice Karahissar talequale, at 8*s.* 8*d.* to 9*s.* 1*d.*; 6 cases Adette ditto, at 8*s.* 3*d.*; and 3 cases old Karahissar, at 8*s.* 11*d.* per lb., c.i.f. The market closes easy for new and very firm for old. The arrivals are 2,503 cases, against 3,183 cases at the same time last year.

ORRIS is offered at easier rates, and at present low values appears to be worth stocking. Good Florentine sorts are obtainable at 23*s.* c.i.f., and for selected quality 27*s.* c.i.f. is quoted. A good business has been done this week.

PEPPER.—Singapore is quiet with sales to arrive near at hand at 5½*d.*, and January–March delivery 6½*d.*, being cheaper; spot is held at 6*d.* for firm. White pepper is firm, but higher prices are asked, viz., 9½*d.* for October–December shipment. Penang has sold for October–December shipment at 8½*d.*

PHENACETIN.—The maker's price is unchanged at 4*s.* 3*d.* for 5 cwt. lots, but from second hands this figure could be shaded.

PIMENTO.—Firm. In auction 42 bags offered of which 16 sold at 3½*d.* per lb. for fair.

QUININE.—Quiet and easier in second-hands. At the end of last week small sales good brands of German sulphate were made at 1*s.* 2*d.* for December delivery, and 1*s.* 2½*d.* for March, and these prices are still quoted nominally. Today no business has been done and prices are quite nominal, owing to the bark-shippments being 1,500,000 Amsterdam lbs., which are said to be the largest on record. Salts have been advanced, the following being the quotations for the more important in quantities of 100 ozs.:—Bisulphate 1*s.* 3*d.* per oz., citrate 1*s.* 9*d.*, hydrobromide 1*s.* 8½*d.*, hydrochloride 1*s.* 8½*d.*, lactate 1*s.* 8½*d.*, phosphate 1*s.* 10*d.*, salicylate 1*s.* 8½*d.*, and valerianate 1*s.* 11½*d.*

SAFFRON.—Reports from Spain intimate that the new crop will be a full average one. It is selling freely here on the basis of 24*s.* to 25*s.* per lb. net, the latter figure being for guaranteed B.P. quality. These prices are low, but it is quite expected that they will improve as the season advances, especially as there is practically no old crop either in Spain or London.

SENEGA.—There is a good inquiry, and the market still tends upwards. For small parcels on the spot 2*s.* 6*d.* net has been paid, but sellers are by no means anxious for business, preferring to hold. The London stock in first-hands is estimated at about 5 tons, and Hamburg is very bare. Advices from America point to a continuance of the present scarcity, and one report states "there are only 10 tons available to last for ten months!"

SERPENTARY.—Holders ask 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb. on the spot.

SHELLAC.—The market last week closed dearer on advices of a stronger market in Calcutta, and this week values are

again higher, the Calcutta price of TN having advanced to 55 r. On the spot a good business has been done in second orange TN at from 97s., rising up to 100s. per fair. A C Garnet has sold at 102s. 6d. Prices for future delivery fluctuated somewhat early in the week, but on Wednesday another advance set in. November delivery selling up to 103s. 6d., December 104s., January 105s., and March 106s. per cwt. For arrival no business is reported, owing to the range of Calcutta prices being so much above the London market, which makes business on c.i.f. terms practically impossible.

SOY is steady at 1s. 6d. per gal., duty paid.

SULPHONAL.—There appears to be no bottom to this market, as two makers now quote 5s. 6d. per lb.—a further reduction of 2s. from last week. Bayer's quotation is 7s., and the Swiss makers quoted 6s. 9d. net early in the week. These low prices appear to have stimulated the demand, and evidently buyers think it is a favourable opportunity to lay in stocks. Prices are hardly likely to keep at this level for long, and makers are not eager sellers in large quantities.

THYMOL.—Practically nothing doing, dealers asking from 9s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per lb., according to quantity.

BRAGACANTH.—There has been a fair demand for both Baghdad and Persian descriptions at about 7l. 10s per cwt. and under. The medium and better qualities are also inquired for, and very high prices have been paid in some instances; the market is practically bare of these descriptions, but fresh supplies are now near at hand.

TURMERIC.—Several hundred bags of Cochin finger have been sold at 16s., and split bnlbs at 12s. per cwt. Fair bright Madras finger has changed hands at 23s., and for arrival 14s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f., has been paid for Bengal, the spot price being 17s. 6d.

VANILLA.—At auction the considerable supply of 1,800 tins were offered (chiefly Seychelles), and mostly sold at irregular, but lower prices; 22s. per lb. was paid for 7½ to 8½ inch Seychelles pods; 16s. to 19s. 6d. for 7 to 7½ inch; 11s. 6d. to 15s. 6d. for 6½ to 7 inch; 9s. to 14s. for 5½ to 6½ inch; and 7s. to 11s. for 4½ to 5½ inch.

WAX, JAPANESE.—For good squares 34s. 6d. spot has been paid, and 35s. is now wanted; spot stock is principally in the hands of one or two holders.

The Hop-crop.

According to the official estimate of the Board of Agriculture, the hop crop in England points to a yield of 649,000 cwt., which is the highest total recorded since 1899 and 1886, when the yields were 661,000 cwt. and 776,000 cwt. respectively. The crop-figures this season are the more noteworthy, as the acreage under hops has diminished slightly in the past three years.

American Copper Sulphate.

The exports of copper sulphate from New York during September aggregated 104,533 lbs., making a total of 37,244,791 lbs. for the nine months. Of this total Italy received 27,499,645 lbs., or 74 per cent.; Austria, 3,450,856 lbs., or 9 per cent.; France, 1,857,731 lbs., or 5 per cent.; and Holland, 1,255,121 lbs., or 3 per cent. Fairly large quantities were also sent to Portugal, Belgium, and Argentina.

Italian Alum.

The output of alum at the mines of the Société Générale des Aluns Romains in Allumière in 1900 was 6,155 tons, valued at about 5,000l., which was mostly exported to Rouen in its natural state. A portion of it, however, was refined in the company's works at Civitavecchia. Here sulphuric acid is also produced. This article is used for converting crude alum into sulphate of alum, and it is now being exported for the manufacture of dynamite, but not as yet in considerable quantities. For the production of sulphuric acid the impure sulphur from Sicily is used. The output of alum could be considerably increased, and the trade in general would greatly benefit if the serious drawback of transport from Allumière to Civita Vecchia could be obviated. The village of Allumière is about ten miles distant from Civita Vecchia, and is situated at about 1,770 feet above the sea-level. The road is a continuous steep slope, and the transport of alum on cars drawn by oxen is attended with great difficulty, loss of time, and expense. Thus the value is considerably increased, and consequently the exportation of this article undertaken to distant ports leaves hardly any margin for profit.

A. & F Pears (Limited).

THE shareholders met at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday afternoon, October 30, Mr. Thos. J. Barratt, chairman of the company, presiding. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts for the year to June 30 last, the Chairman said the report would, he believed, give complete satisfaction, and, indeed, it should do so under the circumstances, particularly seeing that on the last occasion on which he had the pleasure of addressing them he intimated that they were putting up larger plant by means of which they hoped to increase the profits of the concern. These expectations had been realised in increased profits and a larger trade than in the preceding year, which itself was an improvement on its precursor. The only difference which the results would make was to the deferred shareholders, whose dividend would be increased from the usual 3 per cent. to 3½ per cent. Having explained how that arose, the outlay including 1,700l. spent on the Paris Exhibition, Mr. Barratt said against the 1,700l. they had an equivalent in the Grand Prix which was awarded for their exhibit, and that was the first time that any toilet-soap maker *qua* soap-maker received such a reward; there was no other house in existence having a similar honour. Then they had written off 950l. for depreciation, 1,200l. was due to repairs, which brought the plant up to its original state of work and value. Another 1,000l. was due to increased taxation, arising from the greater amount of property they had, and partly from increased valuation on the whole of their holdings, and to the general financial condition of the country due to the war. There was another 1,000l. due to an unforeseen law-case in Kansas, where of all the scandalous attempts to imitate their goods a party produced the worst, and he had seen some shady things in the line in his time. It appeared that a small barber there, named Geo. Pears, along with another, registered a company, and started making soap like that of this company, and using the same labels. It was not for him (the Chairman) to refer to the character of the contents of the packages further than to say that they would damage anybody's reputation. The directors, however, judged it necessary to apply for an injunction, which the Judge granted, saying that the name of Pears was so well known in connection with the toilet-soap trade as to amount almost to a trade-mark.—A Shareholder: Does the injunction apply to the whole of the United States, or to that particular State only?—Mr. A. Pears: I was informed that it affected the whole of the States.—The Chairman, continuing, said the business was in a very healthy state in every direction. They had closed the San Francisco place last autumn, and opened one in Chicago with satisfactory results; the business there was increasing, and if Mr. Roosevelt, the new President, followed in the free-trade footsteps of the late lamented Mr. McKinley, much more might be done in that country in the future. In spite of the political conditions, the seemingly interminable war in South Africa, the competition increasing all over the world, they had been able to augment their gross profits, which he believed the shareholders would, as the directors did, regard as completely satisfactory.—Mr. Fredk. Gordon, who seconded the motion, mentioned that the erection and equipment of the new works at Isleworth had received the most assiduous attention from the two managing directors (the Chairman and Mr. A. Pears).—Before putting the motion, the Chairman remarked that the only holders of deferred shares were the two managing directors, who were the vendors to the company, and that so long as they were content there was no occasion for anyone else to complain. He felt confident that in the near future they would again get their 5 per cent., and perhaps in time get as much as the ordinary shares.—Mr. Smith asked if the Kansas judge had inhibited the barber Pears from using his own name?—The Chairman: Yes. (Laughter.)—At this point the motion was put, and carried.—On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hill, Mr. F. Gordon was re-elected a director, and that gentleman acknowledged the renewed confidence reposed in him.—The Chairman moved that dividends of 6 per cent. on the preference, 10 per cent. on the ordinary, and 3½ per cent. on the deferred ordinary shares be agreed to.—Mr. E. H. Byas seconded, and this was agreed to.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

NORTH BRITISH BRANCH.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee was held on Thursday, October 24, at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, Mr. Peter Boa (Chairman) presiding.

WINTER SESSION ARRANGEMENTS.

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee were read, from which it appeared that it had been arranged to open the winter-session series of scientific meetings with an address by Dr. Leonard Dobbin, of the University of Edinburgh, on "Certain Aspects of Education and Examination in Relation to the Future of Pharmacy." The date of the day-meeting had been fixed for January 15, at 11 o'clock, but the committee were authorised to alter it should the date of the examinations render that necessary.

THE CARNEGIE TRUST.

The committee further reported that they had carefully considered the question of allowing pharmaceutical students to come within the benefits of the Carnegie Trust. The matter had also been considered by the Board of Examiners, who had appointed a committee, consisting of Professor Bower, Dr. Dobbin, and Mr. J. F. Tocher, to co-operate with the Executive in maturing a scheme which had been drafted by Mr. Tocher in consultation with some of the professors in the University of Aberdeen. The committee recommended that they should be authorised to further develop the idea, and take the necessary steps for bringing it to a successful issue. The report was adopted.

LOCAL ORGANISATION.

The committee reported that they had given some attention to the arrangement of the districts of divisional secretaries, particularly in Glasgow. They also suggested that a general meeting of Scottish pharmacists might be held in Edinburgh on the date arranged for the day-meeting in January, at which the proposed scheme for the education of pharmaceutical students in Scotland might be fully considered. It was not proposed meantime to arrange district meetings in other parts of Scotland, but such meetings might probably be held subsequent to the Edinburgh meeting. The minute was approved.

JUBILEE OF THE N.B. BRANCH.

The committee recommended that the jubilee of the founding of the North British Branch, as well as the diamond jubilee of the Pharmaceutical Society, might be suitably taken notice of, and they suggested that the matter be submitted to the Council in due course. The Executive agreed to the suggestion.

THE STANDING ORDERS.

In accordance with a recommendation of the Committee, Mr. Anderson Russell was invited to make a draft of what he desired in the way of standing orders.

NOMINATION OF EXAMINERS.

The next business was the nomination of examiners, which was considered in committee. On resuming it was intimated that the following resolution had been agreed to:—

That Frederick Orpen Bower, Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow; Leonard Dobbin, Lecturer in Chemical Theory and Assistant to the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh; Peter Boa, Edinburgh; Jonathan Innes Fraser, Edinburgh; David Gilmour, Dunfermline; Martin Meldrum, Irvine; John William Sutherland, Glasgow; and James Fowler Tocher, Peterhead, be nominated to the Council as members of the Board of Examiners for Scotland for the year 1902.

THE REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS.

The Executive then proceeded to consider the report of the special committee anent the registration of Scottish pharmaceutical students appointed at last Executive meeting. The report was to the effect that the Executive be recom-

mended to suggest to the Council that the College of Preceptors be asked to accept *pro tanto* for their second-class certificates any Leaving certificates of the Scottish Education Department, provided such certificates have been taken at one examination.

Mr. MABEN moved the adoption of the report, and that the recommendation be sent up to the Council, although he said it was not quite on the lines that he had intended. He thought they did not require to ask the Council to go to the College of Preceptors; the Council had the matter in their own power. He pointed out that not more than 10 per cent. of the boys who left the board and secondary schools had a sufficient number of Leaving certificates to entitle them to registration as pharmaceutical students, and when they went to a chemist's shop and it was placed before them, and they realised that they had to go through all the work again and take an examination on all these subjects, they in the majority of instances at once sheered off. He thought it would be fulfilling the spirit of the regulations if, when a young man possessed, say, three certificates which were perfectly satisfactory, they should be accepted.

The CHAIRMAN: Why not take two as well as three?

Mr. MABEN said he would accept any number, but the certificates should be accepted and the student allowed to take the other subjects. If the boy had three Leaving certificates he should be entitled to go on with them to the Educational Institute of Scotland, or the University, or the Senior Locals if they were still in existence, or to the College of Preceptors—all of which were recognised and their certificates accepted by the Society—and he should be allowed to take his other three subjects and be registered. He thought the Council had power to accept that under the regulations. The local examining body and tight-laced, red-tape-bound men might say that did not mean good work. That was a mere quibble. As a matter of fact, the Council had gone through that already, and had agreed to the principle of accepting the certificates of two separate bodies for registration. The committee refused to go this length, and consequently the recommendation was put in the form that they approach the Council, and ask them to go to the College of Preceptors and get them to accept these certificates. His view was that the Pharmaceutical Society was not a body that ought to go cap in hand to a body like the College of Preceptors and ask this. He thought the Executive should ask the Council to take the thing into their own hands. He believed it would do good. Mr. Mablen was proceeding, when

The CHAIRMAN reminded him that this was a public meeting, and that he was not entitled to bring up a private matter there.

Mr. MABEN said he would make it as public as they liked. He thought the Council had made a mistake in giving up their privilege of examining Preliminary candidates. It had been the greatest mistake, and if the Council were a strong Council they would recognise their mistake and alter their rules at once. He knew they would tell them from London that Scotland moved in this matter. If Scotland did move in the matter it was the easier for London to give them the hame and do the right thing. So far as he was concerned, Scotland had clean hands in the matter. He was going to say this, that he stated—

The CHAIRMAN again interrupted and said: I must ask you to be very careful in your remarks. I do not think you are in order in libelling the Council here.

Mr. MABEN said he wished to be as friendly as possible to the Council. What he was going to say was that he stated in public two years ago at a meeting which was reported in the journals, that this was a great mistake, and that he had always opposed it. He stated then that the Council would lose 600l. a year, and he was afterwards asked by a friend if he had not made a mistake. Instead of saying 600l. he should have said 1,000l., and now 1,000l. would be nothing to it; it was at least 2,000l. He was absolutely certain that every penny of the surplus would go. But he did not look at it from the point of view of the finances of the Society, although he thought the Council should have regard to that. He looked at the future of pharmacy in the country, and he thought they would be in a complete hox—that they would be led into a *cul-de-sac* from which there would be no outlet. There was no getting over this fact that at the present moment the men coming into the trade were

unqualified to begin with, and the majority of them would remain unqualified, and they would thus be breeding a lot of unqualified assistants who would be strong enough some day to go to Parliament and insist on being recognised in some way, and the Society would have to retrace its steps. In the meantime he thought they should ask the Council to accept the Leaving certificates of boys from school and allow them to go forward for the others. He would move the adoption of the report, but he would prefer that it should be altered in that way.

In answer to questions by the Chairman Mr. MABEN admitted that his proposal would bring the standard below the level of that of the Universities, and that under the report students would be debarred from the benefits of the Carnegie Trust. He then said he would prefer to move an addendum to the report, and he ultimately withdrew his motion for its adoption.

Some discussion followed, in which it was suggested to remit the report for further consideration.

Mr. MABEN objected to delay, but ultimately a motion, proposed by Mr. ANDERSON RUSSELL and seconded by Mr. HENRY, was adopted that the report be remitted back to the committee for further consideration, together with the whole question of the First examination so far as it affected Scotland.

On the motion of Mr. MABEN, seconded by Mr. MCADAM, the Executive agreed to send a letter of congratulation to Mr. Henry Bellyse Baildon on his appointment as Professor of English Literature in St. Andrews University.

This was all the business.

Reviews.

Pharmacopœia: A Commentary on the British Pharmacopœia, 1898. By EDMUND WHITE, B.Sc. (Lond.), F.I.C., and JOHN HUMPHREY. Cr. 4to. Pp. xvi + 696. 14s. net. London, 1901: Henry Kimpton.

Two months ago we published a preliminary note upon this work, when we said:—"Short of the actual handling of materials and practical experience in analysis and manufacture, 'Pharmacopœia' will give students of pharmacy all the information they require on the botany, chemistry, and pharmacy of official medicines, and it will be, within limitations which we need not define until the complete work is available, a good reference-book for working pharmacists." The volume itself is now ready, and, after careful perusal of it, we see no reason for altering the opinion that we had formed of the high value of Messrs. White and Humphrey's work. Indeed, our opinion is more than confirmed, and we feel that "Pharmacopœia" will become one of the best-known English works on pharmacy in the widest sense.

After the preface the authors give some very sound advice to students in respect to the study of the British Pharmacopœia; then follows a most useful list of works of reference in botany, chemistry, pharmacognosy, pharmacy, and miscellaneous pharmaceutical literature, to which are added a list of British Pharmacopœia corrigenda, and a short list applying to the book itself. The book proper then begins with *Acacia gummi* and goes right through the British Pharmacopœia monographs to *Zingiber*, which concludes on page 534. This is followed by notes on the Indian and Colonial Addendum to the British Pharmacopœia, which occupy exactly 29 pages. Next there are a list of atomic weights, weights and measures, with equivalents of the metric and imperial standards as regards length, mass and capacity, a table of thermometric equivalents, and the *Pharmacopœia Atlas*, which is a supplement consisting of 46 plates, being *facsimiles* of black-and-white drawings of the more important official drugs, with sections thereof. The work is completed by an exhaustive index extending to 20 pages of small type and containing several thousand references. The size of the book differs from any other pharmaceutical text-book that we know of; it is 9½ inches deep by 7¼ wide, and the binding is a red cloth similar to that of the British Pharmacopœia, but in this instance the edges are marbled uniformly with the end-papers. The book has been beautifully printed in a new fount of type by the

Clements Printing-works (Limited), and it is remarkably free from errors.

We find that our preliminary references to the book fairly well covered its chief features, but we may repeat that the authors are at their best in their descriptions of the more important galenical processes, such as those involved in the preparation of extracts, liquors, ointments, tinctures, and so on; and in the descriptions of chemical processes and reactions involved in the testing or assaying of medicines they exhibit a lucidity of expression which is rare in books dealing with practical pharmacy. We also observe in the pages a more intimate knowledge of the commerce of drugs than it is usual to find in text-books, and the chemistry of drugs is also well up to date. This is a department in which text-book writers are usually either careless or neglectful, contenting themselves with traditional information, and rarely regarding more recent researches as of sufficient importance to justify their departure from the beaten track. The present authors have departed from tradition by incorporating their knowledge of current literature with the text in a straightforward way without a taint of argument. For example, under *Hamamelis* the superiority of *hamamelin* made with strong alcohol is noted—that fact was noticed at Dublin in August; under *Ipecacuanha* the three known alkaloids are mentioned, and all about them; under *Olea* we find excellent notes on the constitution and examination of fixed oils, fats, waxes and essential oils, while generally the alkaloidal chemistry is up to date. Undoubtedly the book appeals primarily to students of pharmacy (Major as well as Minor), for they will not be slow to appreciate the fact that one of the authors is an experienced examiner, and he gives them tips which they will find of value. Apart from that, the educative character of the work alone entitles it to recognition. It is also a book of reference to those for whom examination no longer has terrors, although it does not go beyond the four corners of the *Pharmacopœia*, and even excludes doses and therapeutics. Probably the authors will see their way to include the latter in their next edition, as a matter of business, if for nothing else.

A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica. By JOHN HENRY CLARKE, M.D., in two vols. 10 x 6. Vol. I., pp. 951; Vol. II., pp. 1,560. 3l. 3s. buckram, 3l. 12s. 6d. half morocco. (Homœopathic Publishing Company, 12 Warwick Lane, E.C.)

DR. CLARKE has done good service to homœopathy in compiling the records of all remedies of which definite use has been recorded in homœopathic literature. Vol. I., which lies before us, gives a list of some 450 remedies, in alphabetical order, from A to H, and under each remedy is to be found all the practical information which it has been possible to bring together. The monographs give first the synonyms, natural order, and form in which the remedy is used, clinical indications, characteristics, relations, causation, and the schema, the last enumerating the symptoms under twenty-seven headings. This will serve to show the completeness and scope of the work. To meet objections which are likely to be made to the title of the book Dr. Clarke says that although homœopathy is from first to last an art of individualising, it is convenient to think of remedies in connection with the diseases in the treatment of which they are most frequently called for. The book is excellently produced, and of great value as a reference work to homœopathic physicians and pharmacists.

First Aid to the Injured and Sick: an Ambulance Handbook. By F. J. WARWICK, B.A., and A. C. TUNSTALL, M.D. 6½ x 4. Pp. 228. Illust. 2s. 6d. Bristol: J. Wright & Co.

THE first part of this book gives a brief outline of the structure and functions of the human body, as to render efficient first aid the student must be prepared with some knowledge of anatomy and physiology. The second part deals with the subject of bandaging, the illustrations simplifying the description of the various methods. Then follow the treatment of hæmorrhage, wounds, dislocations, and fractures, and what to do in poisoning, burns, and scalds, and some other medical matters, which makes the book a useful one for sale by chemists, especially in view of the commencement of the ambulance-class season.

Scientific Progress.

Salicylic Acid in Natural Fruits.—If the researches of MM. Portes and Desmoulières are to be depended upon, it will be very necessary for public analysts to be extremely guarded in their condemnation of preparations of fruit in which minute quantities of salicylic acid are found. According to these chemists, strawberries and preparations of this fruit normally contain small quantities of salicylic acid, which was probably present originally in the form of methyl salicylate. If this is true in the case of strawberries, it is quite possible that it may be the case with other fruits; hence the greatest care will be necessary before a confection is pronounced adulterated when minute quantities of the well-known preservative are found in it.—(*Journal de Pharmacie*. 1901, 432.)

Yellow Lupin.—Willstater publishes in the current issue of the *Pharmaceutische Zeitung* (1901, 788) an account of his investigations on the crystallisable alkaloid of the yellow lupin. The formula which has hitherto been assigned to this alkaloid is $C_{21}H_{10}N_2O_2$, but the present investigations prove that this is incorrect, and that it must be modified to $C_{10}H_{10}NO$. A study of its behaviour towards strong oxidising-agents, such as permanganate of potassium in sulphuric acid, show that it is a fully-saturated compound containing a double-ring system. By the action of chromic acid it yields a well-defined crystalline acid which has been termed lupinic acid—a carboxylic acid of the formula $C_9H_{16}N.COOH$. A close examination of lupinin proves it to be a primary alcohol, yielding well-defined primary esters.

Cordianin.—Thoms has extracted from the leaves and bark of *Cordia excelsa* a crystalline compound to which he has assigned the name cordianin. The material was extracted with hot alcohol, and the residue after the evaporation of the solvent dissolved in hot water. The filtered aqueous extract was then evaporated to the thickness of a thin syrup. Crystals of the new compound separated on allowing the liquid to cool and stand for a time. The leaves yielded 0.266 per cent., and the bark 0.78 per cent. After several recrystallisations from alcohol, the compound was obtained in colourless tabular crystals, which on analysis yielded results in agreement with the formula $C_4H_6N_4O_5$. The melting-point was $224^\circ C.$, with simultaneous decomposition. It is, however, very probable that this compound is identical with the already known allantoin.

Neroli Oil.—Hesse publishes, in conjunction with Zeitschel, in the *Jour. f. Prakt. Chemie* (1901, 64, 245), a long paper on the examination of oils of orange-flower obtained in different methods. The authors show that when the flowers are distilled about one-third of the essential oil contained in them passes into the distillation-water, only about two-thirds being separated. The oil extracted from the distillation-water was examined and found to have a sp. gr. of 0.950, and an optical rotation of $+2^\circ$. It contained esters equivalent to 25.2 per cent. of linalyl acetate. A direct estimation of the methyl anthranilate gave 16 per cent. The oil obtained by extracting the flowers with a volatile solvent gave the following figures:—Sp. gr., 0.907; methyl anthranilate, 7.6 per cent. The oil obtained by extracting the pomade of the flowers gave sp. gr. 0.913, and methyl anthranilate 9.2 per cent. The authors have also detected in the water of distillation of orange-flowers, geraniol, phenyl-ethyl alcohol, and phenyl acetic acid. They are further examining this water.

Ferrum Redactum.—Dr. A. Marquardt, of the laboratory of the German Gold and Silver Refining Establishment, draws attention (*Chem. Zeit.*, 71, 743) to the pharmacopœial methods of estimating metallic iron in ferrum redactum. He says that the earlier editions of the German Pharmacopœia made use of the reaction of metallic iron with mercuric chloride, but considers that it is only when the latter is in considerable excess that the reaction is complete. In this respect the method of the Ph.G., 1882 (0.3 gramme ferrum redactum with 50 grammes sol. of mercuric chloride, 1 in 20), has been wrongly abandoned; from experience in his laboratory it has always yielded exactly concordant results. The Ph.G., 1890, makes use of theoretical proportions, and these being insufficient in respect to the mercuric chloride, the required 90 per cent. cannot be obtained. The U.S.P. method also suffers from this objection. The mercuric-chloride method was criticised by Seubert, who decided that 1 gramme of ferrum redactum requires at least 5 grammes of mercuric chloride. He mentions another method, proposed by Wolfson, who measured the amount of hydrogen evolved when a certain weight of ferrum redactum is acted upon by dilute hydrochloric acid. He refers to Schmidt's method, which suggests the use of iodine and thiosulphate, and also that E. Peck has found this method to give too low results, but that when less water is used a good reaction follows. This fact has been well established in his own laboratory. The Ph.G., IV., has adopted the Schmidt method, but with insufficient modifications. The author draws attention to a paragraph in *Merck's Year-book*, 1900, under

"*Ferrum Redactum*," where it is considered desirable to substitute for the 10 c.c. KI solution (as directed by the Ph.G., IV.) a solution of 1 gramme KI in 4 c.c. of water. He fully endorses Merck's opinion, and, finally, describes in detail his mode of working the Ph.G., IV., method by using a stoppered flask of 25-c.c. capacity and shaking for ten minutes continuously, then allowing it to stand for two hours. If, however, 4 c.c. sol. KI be used instead of 10 c.c., it need only stand an hour. The author's results vary from 93.7 per cent. to 91.4 per cent. of iron in ferrum redactum.

American Notes.

CONSUMPTION OF ARSENIC.—The consumption of arsenic and arsenical compounds in the United States is about equal to the imports, which amounted in 1900 to 5,765,559 lbs., valued at \$265,500, and in 1899 to 9,040,871 lbs., valued at \$386,791. The greater part of this is white arsenic. All of the supplies for the United States come from England and Germany, except a very small amount that is imported from Canada.

DRUG-TRADE BOWLERS.—A new drug-trade bowling organisation has been formed in New York to take the place of the old association, which has been disbanded. The list of new firms who at present comprise the new organisation are Messrs. Dodge & Olcott, Seabury & Johnson, Johnson & Johnson, Parke, Davis & Co., Colgate & Co., Lannan & Kemp, the General Chemical Company, the National Lead Company, and Church and the Dwight Company. Messrs. Merck & Co. have retired from the association. Messrs. Powers & Weightman and Messrs. Roessler & Hasslacher have applied for admission and were favourably received, but the application of Messrs. Ricketts & Banks for admission has been refused. Reid's allies have been engaged for the season.

N.W.D.A. MEETING.—The twenty-seventh convention of the National Wholesale Druggists' Association took place at Old Point Comfort, Va., on October 15. There was a good attendance of members and representatives from the American Pharmaceutical Association, the Pharmaceutical Associations of New York State, New Jersey and Maine, and the National Association of Retail Druggists were present. In the course of his address the President (Mr. William J. Walker) called attention to the wonderful and continued prosperity of the country. The druggist's business as a whole was on a substantial basis, no serious failures having overtaken their members. In speaking of the rebate-plan, he said "the jobbers believe in the cause of the retail dealers, and that they are entitled to and should receive a liberal compensation in the handling of all proprietary goods. The retail dealers are in earnest, know what they want to accomplish, and are endeavouring by intelligent and proper action to bring about needed changes." He suggested the establishment of a new standing committee to confer with the various business consolidations as required. The committee on legislation in its report expressed the opinion that steps should be directed towards securing a reduction in the internal revenue tax on alcohol, or, if that were found unpracticable, towards obtaining free alcohol for use in the arts and sciences.

South African News.

(From our Colonial Correspondents.)

A CLEAN BILL.—The official plague-list for the week ended October 5 shows the gradual decrease of the disease. No fresh cases are reported either in the Cape Peninsula or at Port Elizabeth.

THE TOBACCO-BOOM.—Applications for the registration of trade-marks in connection with tobaccos have been heavy of late, and upwards of half a dozen were recorded at Cape Town the week before the mail left.

THE NEW LICENCES for the second half-year ending December 31, 1901, which were lately issued in Bloemfontein, Orange River Colony, included the following:—Chemists and druggists: Lennon (Limited); Manager, Mr. W. Feint.

"A SUCCESSFUL SHUFFLE."—The Queen's Town *Free Press* observes, in connection with the recent verdict in favour of the local municipality against Dr. Sterne (see *C. & D.*, October 19, page 633, and October 26, page 676), that the public conscience of the town has been outraged by the position taken up by the Mayor and Town Council, but adds: "Without a direct mandate from the ratepayers it is very doubtful whether the Council can do anything in face of the judgment." The sum originally tendered to the doctor was 60 guineas, and it is probable that some of Queen's Town's prominent men will see that the medico gets his dues.

THE FOREIGN MEDICO.—At the last meeting of the Cape Medical Council, Dr. Gregory proposed that in future only such medical men should be licensed to practise in the Colony as possessed a British qualification. He did not carry his resolution, but it will be brought up again at the next meeting. An "M.D.," writing in the *Cape Times*, warns the English members to be on the alert and assist Dr. Gregory in his efforts, and declares that everybody knows that the Continental men so admitted turn in a very short time against English interests. In commenting on the foregoing our Cape correspondent points out that more than half the licences issued during the present year have been to foreigners. Exception has been taken to American practitioners, but, as the Council is in no way bound to accept or even consider American diplomas, although they invariably do so out of courtesy, it is difficult to see the force of this argument. The Colonial Medical Council publishes the fact that they will accept certain certificates, and the whole thing resolves itself into one of politics, which nothing but legislation can alter. No doubt it is to that end that Dr. Gregory is working. Unfortunately, it is a disagreeable truism that, speaking collectively, Continental medicos who settle in South Africa lose little of their antipathy to everything British, and in many instances go out of their way to show it. There are exceptions, of course, but they are few.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN SOUTH AFRICA.—At a meeting of the South African Philosophical Society, held at Cape Town on October 2, the principal discussion related to the proposed introduction of the decimal system into the country. The subject was introduced by Mr. Hutchins, who pointed out the advantages of the system from a business point of view. All the important countries of the world, with the exception of England, India, Persia, and Tunis (!), have decimal coinage, and consular reports state that the introduction of the metric system has assisted the development

of the trade of those countries that have adopted it. The change could be effected (as regards coinage) in South Africa without any trouble. At present they have the pound, the florin ($\frac{1}{16}$ th part of the pound), and the "tickey" (South African for a three-penny-piece), which is nearly one-tenth of the florin. Mr. Hutchins therefore suggests that the decimal coinage of South Africa should consist of pounds, florins, and "tickeys." The "tickey," instead of having a face-value of 3*d.*, would be a trifle below 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*, and the place of the penny would be taken by the "half-tickey," with a value of 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.* With regard to the changes in weights and measures, he admits there would be a good deal more trouble, but urges that the disadvantages during the period of transition from the standard weights and measures to those of the decimal system would be outweighed in a few years by the increased advantages which would accrue from easier trading with decimal countries. The sum of his suggestions are tabulated thus:—

Coinage.—1*l.* equals 10 florins equals 100 tickeys.

Length.—1 kilometre equals 1,000 metric yards or mètres equals 100,000 metric inches or centimètres.

Area.—1 hectare (10,000 metric square yards) equals 100 acres. Capacity.—1 metric muid (or décistère) equals 10 bi-gallons equals 100 metric quarts or litres.

Weight.—1 metric ton equals 1,000 bi-pounds or kilogrammes equals 1,000,000 grammes.

The weights in Cape Colony at present are the same as the British, with the exception of the cwt., which is reckoned at 100 lbs. A ton is equal to 2,000 lb. The President of the Society, Sir David Gill, Minister of Education for the Cape, deprecated the introduction of a new nomenclature as suggested by Mr. Hutchins, although he was perfectly agreed that the present "idiotic" system of measures should be abolished. He thought the best plan would be to appoint a committee to deal with the matter. This was ultimately agreed to, and a committee, consisting of Sir David Gill, Dr. Muir, Dr. Beattie, Professor Thomson, Dr. Crawford, Mr. Littlewood, and Mr. Hutchins was appointed to prepare a report on the advisability of introducing or legalising the metric system of weights, measures, and coinage in South Africa.

THE LATEST ADVENTURERS.

HEREWITH we reproduce from a photograph expressly taken for THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST by First-class Staff-Sergeant Piens, R.A.M.C., a group of specially enlisted compounders at present undergoing a course of military instruction at the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, prior to proceeding to South Africa. Beneath the illustration is a key to the identity of this fit-looking body of dispensers.—Volunteer-Compounders A. L. Briggs, E. Costello, and MacDonald are under orders for St. Helena, and will embark on the morning of November 3. Compounders E. Costello, L.P.S.I., W. Jordan, L.P.S.I., A. Hanna, R.D., and S. Fleming are well known in Irish pharmaceutical circles, and their many friends both here and in Ireland will miss them, but in parting wish them *bon voyage*, health, and a safe return.—Volunteer-Compounder Edmund Barnes, L.P.S.I., has returned from active service in South Africa, after doing duty on the s.s. *Orient* on the voyage home as dispenser-in-charge.

RINDERPEST.—The present outbreak of rinderpest in Cape Colony is reported not to be of such a virulent nature as the last; so far, the younger cattle only have suffered from its ravages.

NEW CAPE M.O.H.—Dr. A. Jasper Anderson, of Blackpool, who was recently appointed Medical Officer of Health to the Corporation of Cape Town, arrived at the colonial capital on October 1, and took over his duties immediately.



A GROUP OF ARMY COMPOUNDERS.

(From Left to Right)

Back Row.—J. F. Chalmers, A. Hanna, J. Eadie, J. W. Kerr.
Middle Row.—L. C. A. Eastmead, F. G. Cook, H. L. Carter, J. Gleeson, W. Jordan.
Front Row.—A. L. Briggs, A. Birss, E. Tyrrell, F. Eager, E. Costello, E. Carter.